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Recent Research Abstracts

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SIBLINGS

Noller, P. (2005). Sibling relationships in adolescence: Learning and growing together. *Personal Relationships*, 12(1), pp. 1-22.

In this article, the author showcases various studies on sibling relationships in adolescence. First, she reports on the associations between sibling relationships and other family relationships and the way that the various relationships affect one another. Secondly, a study of sibling relationships in the context of parental separation and divorce is described showing that sibling relationships in these families are more likely to be high in both warmth and hostility than relationships in two-parent families. Thirdly, there is a report on several data sets showing an association between the quality of sibling relationships and adolescent adjustment. Fourthly, the author reports on a study of comparison and competition in sibling relationships and the associations between sibling relationship quality and reactions to being outperformed by a sibling. Finally, the author discusses possible future directions for research on sibling relationships, including the importance of multi-method and longitudinal research perspectives.

Hegar, Rebecca L. (2005). Sibling placement in foster care and adoption: An overview of international research. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27(7), 717-739.

This article gives an overview of studies from several countries that address definitions and descriptions of sibling groups in care, the characteristics of children placed together or separately and the outcomes of sibling placements. Most studies examining the outcomes of sibling placement in foster care and adoption indicate that joint sibling placements are at least as stable as placements of single children or separated siblings and that children do as well or better when placed with siblings. The implications of these studies for policy and practice are discussed.

Hoffman, Kristi, L; Kiecolt, K. Jill; Edwards, John, N. (2005). Physical violence between siblings: A theoretical and empirical analysis. *Journal of Family Issues*, 26(8), 1103-1130.

This study develops and tests a theoretical model to explain sibling violence based on feminist, conflict and social learning theoretical perspectives and research in psychology and sociology. A multivariate analysis of data from 651 young adults generally supports hypotheses from all three theoretical perspectives. Males with brothers have significantly higher levels of sibling violence than the other types of sibling pairs. Conflict and abuse between parents are associated with negative parent-child interactions, which in turn are related to problems in siblings' relationships with each other. All of these predict sibling violence.