



**National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information  
National Adoption Information Clearinghouse**



***Gateways to Information: Protecting Children and Strengthening Families***

This bibliography was compiled in April 2006. For new titles added to the Clearinghouse database, go to:

<http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/chdocs/docs/canweb/SearchForm>

**Siblings in Foster Care  
2000-present**

**An understudied form of intra-family violence: sibling-to-sibling aggression among foster children.**

Linares, L. Oriana.  
New York University Child Study Center.  
2006

*Aggression and Violent Behavior*

11 (1) p. 95-109

Available from: ScienceDirect

1719 N St. NW

Washington, DC 20036

Tel: 800-544-4565 202-331-9653

[usinfo@sciencedirect.com](mailto:usinfo@sciencedirect.com)

Foster children are at high risk for perpetrating and for being victims of sibling aggression and violence. This article proposes an integrative, multidimensional model for studying risk and protective factors of sibling violence. In the model, exposure to sibling violence (perpetration and victimization), child mental disorder, and placement characteristics are risk factors for impaired psychological functioning (internalizing and externalizing symptoms) and for disruptions in school competence (scholastic and social competence with classmates). Sibling positivity, quality of the foster care giving, and foster rejecting care giving are proposed as moderating processes in the linkage between exposure to sibling violence and impaired psychological functioning. Preliminary data are presented in support of the proposed model. (Author abstract)

**The other kin: setting the course for research, policy, and practice with siblings in foster care.**

Shlonsky, Aron. Bellamy, Jennifer. Elkins, Jennifer. Ashare, Caryn J.

Columbia Univ., New York. School of Social Work.

2005

*Children and youth services review: an international multidisciplinary review of the welfare of young people.*

27 (7) p. 697-716

Publication Information: New York, NY, Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

The preservation and maintenance of sibling relationships in child welfare settings have begun to come to the forefront of practice and policy considerations. While past research on families coming into contact

---

**National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse  
and Neglect Information**

330 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20447

(703) 385-7565 or (800) 394-3366

Fax: (703) 385-3206

E-mail: [nccanch@calib.com](mailto:nccanch@calib.com)

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov>

**National Adoption Information Clearinghouse**

330 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20447

(703) 352-3488 or (888) 251-0075

Fax: (703) 385-3206

E-mail: [naic@calib.com](mailto:naic@calib.com)

<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>

with the child protective services system has largely focused on the parent child relationship, an emerging body of literature indicates that the relationship between brothers and sisters cannot be ignored. This paper highlights recent and historical trends in the literature on siblings in foster care, reviews some of the legal issues surrounding conjoint sibling placement, proposes a constitutionally protected right of association among siblings in out-of-home care, and explores the multiple and complex methodological challenges facing researchers in this area. (Author abstract). 83 references, 1 figure.

**Sibling placements in longitudinal perspective.**

Wulczyn, Fred Zimmerman, Emily.

Univ. of Chicago. Chapin Hall Center for Children.

2005

*Children and youth services review*

27 (7) p. 741-763

Publication Information: New York, NY, Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

Although research that focuses on sibling placements in foster care has increased in recent years, for the most part this research has focused on single samples from a point-in-time perspective. In this paper, we approach the matter of sibling placements with longitudinal data, differentiating between the notions of togetherness and intactness in order to describe the placement experiences of sibling groups. We generally found that, although siblings often enter care on the same day, they make up less than half the groups entering care. We also found that small sibling groups are more likely to be placed intact. So, too, are siblings placed with relatives. We also studied intactness over time. All told, when the movement between statuses is accounted for fully, more sibling groups were intact at 6 months as a percentage of children still in care than at the time of placement. Moreover, there is evidence that separated siblings who remain in care are sometimes brought together over time, sibling group size and placement type affect the likelihood that siblings are brought together, and children who follow their siblings into care are much less likely to be placed with a sibling compared to siblings that enter foster care on the same day. (Author abstract) 18 references, 1 figure, 16 tables.

**Sibling placement in foster care and adoption: an overview of international research.**

Hegar, Rebecca L.

Univ. of Texas at Arlington. School of Social Work.

2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 717-739

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

This article reviews 17 studies from several countries which address definitions and descriptions of sibling groups in care, characteristics of children placed together or separately, and outcomes of sibling placements. Most studies examining outcomes suggest that joint sibling placements are as stable as, or more stable than, placements of single children or separated siblings and that children do as well or better when placed with siblings. Implications for policy, practice, and research are discussed. (Author abstract) 102 references, 1 table.

**Using administrative child welfare data to identify sibling groups.**

Lery, Bridgette Shaw, Terry V. Magruder, Joseph.

Univ. of California, Berkeley. School of Social Welfare, Center for Social Services Research.  
2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 783-791

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

California law requires that child welfare agencies place siblings together in foster care whenever possible. Such decisions depend on how siblings are identified. Siblings are usually identified when children are removed from the same household, while non-coresident siblings can be missed and may not be considered in placement decisions or analyses. This exploratory study examines a cross-section of children in the California foster care system, comparing four different sibling classification schemes to determine how well each method identifies siblings and discusses how each strategy might apply to meeting legislative mandates for placing siblings together. Findings suggest that while the current sibling identification method is effective at capturing most sibling relationships, the addition of other search criteria would offer a more comprehensive understanding of sibling placement activity, leading to a broader array of children identified as siblings and a greater potential for children to be placed with one or more of their siblings. (Author abstract) 5 references, 1 figure, 3 tables.

**Separation from siblings: associations with placement adaptation and outcomes among adolescents in long-term foster care.**

Leathers, Sonya J.

University of Illinois at Chicago. Jane Addams College of Social Work

2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 793-819

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

Although practice guidelines support the placement of siblings in the same foster home whenever possible, sibling groups are frequently separated. Little empirical knowledge is available to understand why siblings are separated or how different sibling placement patterns are related to children's placement adaptation and permanency outcomes. These questions were investigated using data from a study involving telephone interviews with the caseworkers and foster parents of a cross-sectional sample of 197 randomly selected young adolescents in long-term, traditional family foster care. Placement outcomes, including placement disruption, reunification, and adoption, were followed prospectively for five years. Results of multivariate analyses indicate that adolescents who were placed alone after a history of joint sibling placements were at greater risk for placement disruption than those who were placed with a consistent number of siblings while in foster care. This association was mediated by a weaker sense of integration and belonging in the foster home among youth placed alone with a history of sibling placements. Unexpectedly, youth placed alone, either throughout their stay in foster care or after a history of sibling placements, were less likely to exit to adoption or subsidized guardianship than youth with consistent joint sibling placements. (Author abstract) 47 references, 5 tables.

**The mental health and socialization of siblings in care.**

Tarren-Sweeney, Michael Hazell, Philip.  
Univ. of Newcastle (Australia). Centre for Mental Health Studies.  
2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 821-843

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

The paper describes sibling-related investigations conducted within the first stage of a prospective study of the mental health of 347 children (aged 4-11) in foster and kinship care in New South Wales, Australia (the Children in Care Study). Mental health was measured with the Child Behavior Checklist and with a carer-report instrument designed to measure psychopathology specifically observed among children in care (the Assessment Checklist for Children). A large number of study factors were measured, including several confounders of sibling-related data. The analyses include: the distribution and stability of sibling placements; mental health and socialization estimates stratified by sibling placement status; and a within-pairs comparison of oldest-younger sibling dyads in shared placements. Girls separated from all of their siblings were reported to have significantly poorer mental health and socialization than girls residing with at least one sibling. Various hypotheses accounting for this gender-specific finding are proposed, with a view to being tested in the prospective stage of the study. (Author abstract) 52 references, 6 tables.

**The ties that bind II: reunification for siblings in out-of-home care using a statistical technique for examining non-independent observations.**

Webster, Daniel Shlonsky, Aron Shaw, Terry Brookhart, M. Alan.

Univ. of California, Berkeley. School of Social Welfare, Center for Social Services Research.

2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 765-782

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usjcs@elsevier.com](mailto:usjcs@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

The present study was undertaken to incorporate sibling information and account for sibling bias when modeling longitudinal child welfare outcomes using a generalized linear model such as logistic regression. The paper is divided into two parts. The first part examines recent studies that have included sibling data in their multivariate models, and references statistical literature that underscores a method generalized estimating equations (GEE) that accounts for non-independent, cluster-correlated observations in analyses where logistic regression might otherwise be considered. The second part of the paper applies this technique to examine the likelihood of reunification from foster care for a statewide sample of siblings who entered care for the first time in 2000 (n=15,517). Results indicate that some sibling-specific factors (e.g., being placed together in care) strongly predict reunification, while another (i.e., number of siblings), surprisingly, does not. Implications for child welfare policy, practice, and future research are discussed. (Author abstract) 24 references, 2 tables.

**Siblings in foster care and adoption.**

Shlonsky, Aron (Editor)

Columbia University. School of Social Work.

2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 693-865

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

Approximately 70 percent of children in foster care have a sibling who has also been removed from the home. Research suggests that children who are separated from their siblings in care experience higher levels of distress and negative outcomes than children who can maintain supportive relationships with their brothers and sisters. This special issue of the Children and Youth Services Review contains articles that examine the long-term impact of sibling separation on placement stability and well-being. The authors describe the importance of nurturing relationships between siblings and discuss different methods that can be used to study the outcomes related to joint and separate placement. Numerous references, figures, tables.

**My brother, my sister: sibling relations in adoption and foster care. [A curriculum consisting of trainer's notes, activities, power point slides and video].**

Kupecky, Regina M.

2005

Publication Information: North Royalton, OH: Regina Kupecky.

Available from: Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio

12608 State Road, Suite 1

North Royalton, OH 44133

Tel: 440-230-1960 ext. 5

[ReginaKu@msn.com](mailto:ReginaKu@msn.com) (put sibling in subject line)

This six-hour training program about the importance of sibling relationships for foster and adopted children provides an overview about the reasons for separation, the benefits of joint placements, and strategies for promoting contact with siblings living in different homes. Discussions highlight the feelings of grief experienced by children who lose contact with brothers and sisters and considerations for planning for placements. Sibling group adoptions also are addressed. The curriculum can be adapted for foster and adoptive parents, social workers, attorneys, court appointed special advocates, mental health providers, and other professionals. Modules may be re-organized to meet the needs of the trainers and the participants. Training materials include a video, handouts, lesson outlines, group activities, and PowerPoint slides in an electronic format.

**Policies on sibling visits in out of home care.**

National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.

2005

Available from: National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

Hunter College School of Social Work 129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7053

[grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu)

Excerpts from and links to individual state policies on visiting between siblings in temporary out-of-home care, from the NRCFCPPP. (Author abstract)

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/policy-issues/Sibling\\_Visiting\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/policy-issues/Sibling_Visiting_Policies.pdf)

**Conservation of sibling bonds update.**

Children and Family Research Center.

2005

Available from: Children and Family Research Center

2 North LaSalle Suite 1700

Chicago, IL 60602

Tel: 312-641-2505

[cfr@uiuc.edu](mailto:cfr@uiuc.edu)

This fact sheet discusses the importance of preserving sibling bonds among foster children, and the impact of sibling bonds on the development of emotional attachments. It provides data showing sibling groups of varying sizes are more likely to be placed together when they are living with relatives than when they are in unrelated foster care. The establishment of a Sibling Post-Adoption Continuing Contact Governor's Joint Task Force to make recommendations about the rights of sibling association after termination of parental rights and post-adoption is noted. 1 figure and 3 references.

<http://cfrwww.social.uiuc.edu/briefpdfs/sibbondupdate.pdf>

**Parent-child interaction therapy with two maltreated siblings in foster care.**

Fricker-Elhai, Adrienne E. Ruggiero, Kenneth J. Smith, Daniel W.

2005

*Clinical case studies*

4 (1) p. 13-39

Available from: Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

2455 Teller Road

Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Tel: (805) 499 9774

[journals@sagepub.com](mailto:journals@sagepub.com)

Available from: <http://ccs.sagepub.com/>

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is an empirically supported treatment for young children with disruptive behavior that emphasizes parent training in behavior management. Although researchers have demonstrated the usefulness of PCIT in multiple settings and with various subgroups of children, few have documented the application of this intervention with maltreated children or with children who live in foster care environments. Two foster children with severe maltreatment histories were identified as appropriate candidates for PCIT. Both children presented with various forms of problem behavior, including tantruming, noncompliance with parental commands, aggressive behavior toward peers, and sexualized behavior. Also, prior to initiating PCIT, both foster parents adhered to several inappropriate and ineffective parenting methods. We highlight several barriers to successful treatment that are not uncommon with maltreated children and foster families; several such barriers surfaced with this case, including some that we were unable to circumvent.

**Policies on placing siblings in out of home care.**

National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.

2005

Available from: National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

Hunter College School of Social Work 129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7053

[grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu)

States have a variety of policies regarding the placement of siblings in temporary out-of-home care. The NRCFCPPP has assembled those we were able to locate here. Note that this is not a comprehensive list of all policies. (Author abstract)

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/policy-issues/Sibling\\_Placement\\_Policies.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/policy-issues/Sibling_Placement_Policies.pdf)

**Sibling connections: The importance of nurturing sibling bonds in the foster care system.**

Herrick, Mary Anne Piccus, Wendy.

Washington Education Foundation.

2005

*Children and youth services review.*

27 (7) p. 845-861

Publication Information: New York, NY: Elsevier Science, Inc.

Available from: Elsevier Ltd.

6277 Sea Harbor Dr.

Orlando, FL 32887-4800

Tel: 877-839-7126 (US) 407-345-4020 (non US)

[usics@elsevier.com](mailto:usics@elsevier.com)

Available from: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)

It is estimated that over two-thirds of children in out-of-home care have siblings. Because of the significant relationships that children may have with their parents and siblings before being removed from their home, children who enter the child welfare system may experience anxiety, trauma, grief, guilt and loss of identity. The purpose of this paper is to explore the ameliorating effect that sibling connections can have on these factors. It is the authors' position that sibling connections are extremely important to children in out-of-home care and, apart from situations where sibling contact will cause trauma or disruption for the children, professionals should make every effort to maintain sibling relationships. The authors investigate the issue of sibling connections in substitute care by adding a unique perspective to the discussion. Both of the authors are child welfare researchers who also spent a significant amount of time in foster care, together and separated from siblings. As adults who have lived within the child welfare system, the authors offer other professionals an alternative way to look at the issues, and new ideas for practice and policy aimed at resolving the challenges faced by children in out-of-home care. (Author abstract) 70 references.

**Information packet: siblings in out-of-home care.**

National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.  
2005

National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

Hunter College School of Social Work 129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7053

[grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu)

Information contained in this packet includes summaries of issues, legislation, statistics, research evidence, model programs, and recommended websites and literature pertaining to siblings in out-of-home care. (Author abstract)

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/information\\_packets/siblings.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/information_packets/siblings.pdf)

**Real belonging: give siblings their right to reunite.**

Price, Lynn.

2004

Publication Information: Portland, OR: Inkwater Press

Distributed by: Inkwater Press

6750 SW Franklin St. Suite A

Portland, OR 97223

Available from: <http://www.lynnprice.com/book.html> [www.inkwaterpress.com](http://www.inkwaterpress.com)

This book explores the importance of sibling relationships for children in foster care. The first section describes the author's experience as she established a connection with her birth sister and resolved her identity within her foster and birth families. Part Two explains the development of a camp to facilitate reunions for children separated within the foster care system. Chapters present stories of camp participants and the impact of time spent between brothers and sisters. The final section contains anecdotes about the author's relationships with her foster and birth children.

**Maintaining sibling bonds: advocating for sibling visitation during foster care and beyond (Chapter 12 of Representing children, families, and agencies in child welfare, juvenile justice, custody, and adoption proceedings.)**

Appell, Annette R.

University of Nevada Las Vegas

2004

Publication Information: Chapter 12 of Representing children, families, and agencies in child welfare,

juvenile justice, custody, and adoption proceedings. Denver, CO: National Association of Counsel for Children

Available from: National Association of Counsel for Children

1825 Marion Street, Suite 242

Denver, CO 80218

Tel: 1-888-828-NACC 303.864.5320

[advocate@NACCchildlaw.org](mailto:advocate@NACCchildlaw.org)

Available from: <http://naccchildlaw.org>

An annotated bibliography is presented that cites resources on preserving sibling relationships during foster care, including 10 law and bar journal articles, 3 social science books, 5 social science articles, 8 case law references, and 1 website. A chart identifies State statutes that may permit court-imposed or court-enforced post adoption contact between siblings.

### **Using Attachment Theory When Placing Siblings in Foster Care.**

Whelan, D. J.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

2003

*Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*

20 (1) p. 21-36

Publication Information: Kluwer Academic Publishers, Norwell, MA.

Reprints available from: Kluwer Academic Publishers

Journals Dept. 101 Philip Dr. Assinippi Park

Norwell, MA 02061

Tel: 781-871-6600

[kluwer@wkap.com](mailto:kluwer@wkap.com)

Available from: <http://www.wkap.nl>

Attachment theory offers a useful model for determining if siblings removed from their birth parent's home and awaiting placement should remain together or be separated when placed in foster care. The paper draws from the attachment theory literature, social work literature, and the author's experience as an outpatient psychotherapist. Using the concept of a secure attachment environment, this paper argues that siblings can potentially contribute to, or detract from, a secure attachment environment. When siblings are supportive of each other they can contribute to it. When the sibling relationships are chronically abusive, the individual siblings within a sibling-set are precluded from achieving a secure attachment environment. In these cases the need for separation of the siblings is indicated, and must be considered. (Author abstract) 26 references, 1 figure.

### **Neighbor to Family: an innovative approach to foster care: amended valuation report.**

Ortega, Sandra.

Florida. Dept. of Children and Families. Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

2003

Publication Information: Tallahassee, FL: Florida Dept. of Children and Families: Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

Distributed by: Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida

111 North Gadsden Street Suite 200

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Tel: 850-921-4494

[bgriffin@ounce.org](mailto:bgriffin@ounce.org)

Available from: <http://www.ounce.org>

In 1994, the Jane Addams Hull House in Chicago developed a professional foster caregiver model, Neighbor to Neighbor, to aid children and families in foster care. Neighbor to Neighbor was an innovative strategy to keep sibling groups together and increase the number and quality of foster caregivers by employing professional foster caregivers. Their main emphasis was service provision that put the interest of children and families first. After researching the key issues regarding foster care services, they identified barriers and sought solutions to improve the system. The community-based model promotes a strong recruitment and retention strategy for foster caregivers that includes an annual salary and benefits, comprehensive in-service training, case management support from on-site staff, a team approach

involving foster caregivers in case staffings and individual planning for the children for whom they are responsible. The program emphasizes aggressive outreach to birth parents and extended family with a goal of reunifying sibling groups with their families. To aid in reunification, the program includes family-focused comprehensive wrap around services and employs a team-based approach to casework. When the model was introduced in Florida, it was designated the Neighbor to Family (NTF) program due to proprietary rights related to the title, "Neighbor to Neighbor." In the spring of 2001, discussions began regarding an evaluation of the NTF pilots in Florida. The Volusia County site was chosen for evaluation, as it was the most mature site and provided the best opportunity to review the model. Information contained in this report includes program service data from December 1998 through December 2001. The evaluation assessed the fidelity with which NTF implemented the program and the impact upon the children served through the intervention. The NTF program developed a logic model that translated the program goals into quantifiable objectives and outcomes. The assessment of the degree to which the program achieved these goals, objectives and outcomes is the core of this evaluation. (Author abstract modified)

<http://www.ounce.org/pdf/NTFEvaluation.pdf>

### **Siblings and out-of-home placement: best practices.**

#### *Review articles*

Groza, Victor. Maschmeier, Connie. Jamison, Cheryl. Piccola, Trista.  
Alliance for Children and Families.  
Case Western Reserve University.  
2003

*Families in society: the journal of contemporary human services.*

84 (4) p. 480-490

Publication Information: Milwaukee, WI: Alliance for Children and Families.

Reprints available from: Alliance for Children and Families

11700 West Lake Park Drive

Milwaukee, WI 53224

Tel: 414-359-1040

[info@alliance1.org](mailto:info@alliance1.org)

Available from: <http://www.alliance1.org>

This article is based on research and practice experience from projects and cases in both public child welfare agencies and private adoption agencies. Here, the authors summarize the research on sibling relationships, including a description of sibling relationships in families where children have been abused and neglected. The authors also discuss the barriers in child welfare that can result in the separation of siblings. Finally, they offer best practice solutions that support maintaining sibling relationships throughout temporary and permanent placement. An assessment tool to assist in the decision-making process for the placement of siblings is also included. This tool will help practitioners think systematically about the placement of siblings in order to make the best decisions. (Author abstract)

[http://www.alliance1.org/Publications/fis/FIS\\_PDFs/84-4PDFs/FIS84-4\\_Groza.pdf](http://www.alliance1.org/Publications/fis/FIS_PDFs/84-4PDFs/FIS84-4_Groza.pdf)

### **The Ties That Bind: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Siblings in Foster Care.**

Shlonsky, Aron. Webster, Daniel. Needell, Barbara.

Columbia University School of Social Work, New York, NY.

2003

*Journal of Social Service Research*

29 (3) 27-52

Publication Information: The Haworth Press, Inc., Binghamton, NY.

Available from: The Haworth Press, Inc.

10 Alice St.

Binghamton, NY 13904-158

Tel: 800-429-6784

[getinfo@haworthpressinc.com](mailto:getinfo@haworthpressinc.com)

Available from: <http://www.HaworthPress.com>

Research on siblings in foster care has been limited to date, despite the fact that most children in out-of-home care also have siblings in the system. Using administrative data, this study examined a cross-

section of 35,216 foster children in a large metropolitan area of the Western United States to determine the factors associated with intact sibling placement. The analysis specifically considered the prevalence of intact sibling placement and the effect of sibling group size, age, gender, ethnicity, placement type, age span, and length of stay on intact placements. Two models were tested: placement with all siblings and placement with some or all siblings. Of the sample of 11,718 children in care, approximately 46 percent were placed with all of their siblings and two-thirds were placed with at least one sibling. Starting care at the same time, placement in relative care, and matched gendered pairs were highly associated with intact sibling placement, while age and placement in group care were negatively associated with joint placements. The findings indicate a need to modify licensing requirements to promote sibling group placements, as well as kinship care. (Author abstract modified) 21 references, 3 notes, 4 figures.

**Siblings in out-of-home care: an overview.**

Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support. Hunter College. School of Social Work.

2003

Publication Information: Washington, DC: Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support.

Available from: Hunter College School of Social Work

129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7000

[grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:grad.socworkadvisor@hunter.cuny.edu)

Available from: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork>

This paper describes the background of a Casey Family Programs project developed to examine the experiences of children in care who are separated from siblings. The review cites statistical data about the number of foster children who have brothers and sisters and outlines the benefits of maintaining sibling relationships. The project is intended to focus on sibling relationships as a factor in placement decisions, the definition of sibling, responsibilities to facilitate contact between separated siblings, and considerations for sibling relationships within the context of child welfare goals for safety, permanency, and well-being. Casey Family Programs supports joint placement for siblings; the recruitment of foster families specifically for sibling groups; flexible licensing regulations to permit joint placement; training for judges, caseworkers, and attorneys about issues regarding sibling separation; and laws that promote joint placement and visitation. In addition to a national leadership symposium, Casey Family Programs intends to track the progress of demonstration projects to recruit foster families for sibling groups.

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/sibling\\_overview.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/sibling_overview.pdf)

**New York State's separated siblings 2000-2002 [website].**

New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children.

2003

Publication Information: Ithaca, NY: New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children.

Distributed by: New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children

410 East Upland Road

Ithaca, NY 14850

Tel: 607-272-0034

[office@nysccc.org](mailto:office@nysccc.org)

Available from: <http://www.nysccc.org>

The statistical reports accessible on this website analyze the proportion of children on New York state adoption photolists in 2000, 2001, and 2002 who were listed separately from their siblings. Overall, the percent of listed children who were planned for separately from siblings increased from 30 percent in 2000 to 33 percent in 2001, and 38 percent in 2002. New York City reported lower rates of separation than districts in the rest of the state. Children with separate plans were commonly male, Caucasian, and older. The majority of children photolisted were still waiting for placement at the end of the year. The reports include statistics for all local districts, as well as private agencies. Numerous figures and tables.

<http://www.nysccc.org/Siblings/sibrepintro.htm>

**Sibling relationship in out-of-home care literature review.**

Kang, Hyun-ah.

Children and Family Research Center.

2002

Distributed by: Children and Family Research Center.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 1207 West Oregon Street

Urbana-Champaign, IL 60801

Tel: (217) 333-5837

[cfrcc@social.uiuc.edu](mailto:cfrcc@social.uiuc.edu)

Available from: <http://cfrccwww.social.uiuc.edu>

Sponsoring Organization: Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services.

The sibling bond is very important in children's development. Brothers and sisters share friendship, warmth, and caring. Sibling relationships play a major role in the development of social skills since children spend the majority of time with their siblings and learn how to interact with others. In addition, evidence shows that siblings influence the development of a sense of attachment. Children who are separated from their siblings are likely to be preoccupied with thoughts about their siblings, leading to depression. Festinger (1983) asserted the importance of facilitating sibling ties for children in foster care. In her survey of adults who experienced foster care, she found that only one third of subjects reported satisfaction with the amount of contact they had with their siblings. Despite the importance of sibling relationships in child development, many children in out-of-home care continue to be placed apart from their siblings. It was estimated that 35,000 siblings are placed separately annually. The issue of preservation of the sibling bond in out-of-home care now has become prominent in child welfare practice and academia. This review includes studies on sibling separation pattern and factors, differences between children placed with siblings and children placed apart, foster mothers' and caseworkers' views on sibling placement, and the influence of sibling placement on child functioning. Eric, Psych INFO, Social Service Abstracts, Social Work Abstracts, and LegalTrac were searched using the keywords "sibling" AND ("adoption" or "foster" or "visitation"). The search yielded a total of 304 references. The key words used were; sibling bond, sibling relationship, and sibling in foster care. (Author abstract modified) <http://cfrccwww.social.uiuc.edu/LRpdfs/SiblingsinCare.LR.pdf>

**Proceedings of the National Leadership Symposium on Siblings in Out-of-Home Care, May 19-20, 2002 (including, Summary of legislation ; and Worksheet on best and promising practices).**

Casey Family Programs. National Leadership Symposium on Siblings in Out-Of-Home Care (2002:

Daytona Beach, Fla.)

2002

Publication Information: Seattle, WA: Casey Family Programs.

Distributed by: Casey Family Programs

1300 Dexter Avenue North Floor 3

Seattle, WA 98109

Tel: 800-228-3559 206-282-7300

[info@casey.org](mailto:info@casey.org)

Available from: <http://www.casey.org>

This symposium was co-sponsored by the Neighbor-to-Family Program and Casey Family Program with a grant from the Children's Bureau to examine issues for children in foster care who have siblings in care or at home. Foster parents, researchers, practitioners, and former foster children discussed the reasons for sibling separation and joint placement, the impact of separation, and best practices with siblings. Sessions featured presentations by experts in the areas of demographics, legislation, and public policy. Participants also met to review the definition of sibling, the role of sibling relationships in permanency planning, and opportunities for advocacy. This report summarizes key points from the presentations and workgroups about visions and promising practices for casework. Recommendations address the assignment of foster families to care for sibling groups, the engagement of biological families and relatives, early intervention to prevent placement, increased resources, and the creation of social work teams to address sibling placement.

[http://www.casey.org/NR/rdonlyres/2A9833A8-327A-4F6B-987C-260AC552F6C1/136/casey\\_sibling\\_proceedings.pdf](http://www.casey.org/NR/rdonlyres/2A9833A8-327A-4F6B-987C-260AC552F6C1/136/casey_sibling_proceedings.pdf)

**Annotated bibliography on siblings in out-of-home care.**

Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support. Hunter College. School of Social Work.

2002

Publication Information: Washington, DC: Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support.

Available from: Hunter College School of Social Work

129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7000

Available from: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork>

This bibliography provides brief descriptions of reports and other publications about siblings in foster care. The resources include materials that address child welfare practice, law, psychology, research, statistics, and advocacy. General information and literature reviews are included.

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/sibling\\_bibliography.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/downloads/sibling_bibliography.pdf)

**Sibling practice curriculum [in 3 parts].**

National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning

2002

Distributed by: National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning

Hunter College School of Social Work 129 East 79th Street

New York, NY 10021

Tel: 212-452-7053

[gmallon@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:gmallon@hunter.cuny.edu)

Available from: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp>

The overall training objectives of this curriculum are: to enhance understanding of issues concerning siblings in out-of-home care; to expand knowledge and skills in making appropriate placement decisions for sibling groups; to enhance knowledge and skills in the recruitment and retention of resource families willing and able to parent sibling groups; to enhance ability to present appropriate information to the court to support sibling groups; and to increase knowledge of policy and legislation affecting sibling placements in participants' jurisdictions. Includes 2 modules and handouts in PDF format, downloadable. (Author abstract modified)

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info\\_services/siblings.html](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/siblings.html)

**Youth Leadership Advisory Team position paper: siblings in foster care and adoption.**

Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service. Youth Leadership Advisory Team.

2002

Publication Information: Portland, ME: Youth Leadership Advisory Team.

Distributed by: Youth Leadership Advisory Team

Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service PO Box 15010

Portland, ME 04112

Tel: 207-780-5861 877-792-9528

[pburns@usm.maine.edu](mailto:pburns@usm.maine.edu)

Available from: <http://www.ylat.org>

This position paper emphasizes the importance of sibling relationships to the emotional well-being of children in care and advocates for the joint placement of brothers and sisters as standard practice. The Youth Leadership Advisory team recommends that policymakers and agency administrators make placement decisions that consider the desires of children and place siblings together except when separation is in the best interest of the youth. Siblings who are separated should be placed in homes as close together as possible and the case plan should include provisions for visitation. Joint placement also should be a priority for youth who are being adopted.

<http://www.ylat.org/leadership/policy/siblingposition.htm>

**Extending the uses of sibling therapy with children and adolescents.**

Gnaulati, Enrico.

California State University.

2002

*Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training*

39 (1) p. 76-87

Available from: American Psychological Association

Order Dept. PO Box 92984

Washington, DC 20090-2984

Tel: 202-336-5500

[journals@apa.org](mailto:journals@apa.org)

The literature on sibling therapy is limited to a handful of articles underscoring its utility in strengthening children's sense of connection in the face of family dissolution and reorganization attributable to such factors as parental divorce or foster care placement. The author adds to this sparse literature by showing how intensive work with siblings may also be instrumental in ameliorating destructive levels of aggression and faulty self-other differentiation in the sibling relationship. Two dimensions of the latter are investigated--(a) compulsive mimicry and anti-mimicry and (b) exploitative idealizations--as well as a variety of determinants of sibling aggression. Assessment considerations and suggested interventions are interspersed throughout. Criteria contraindicating intensive sibling work are also offered. (Author abstract)

### **Siblings in Family Transitions.**

Drapeau, S. Simard, M. Beaudry, M. Charbonneau, C.

Laval Univ., Ste-Foy, QC (Canada). Centre de Recherche sur les Services Communautaires.

2000

*Family Relations*

49 (1) p. 77-85

Publication Information: National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN.

Reprints available from: National Council on Family Relations

Allen Press P.O. Box 1897

Lawrence, KS 66044-8897

Tel: (800) 627-0627 x221

[tjones@allenpress.com](mailto:tjones@allenpress.com)

Available from: <http://ncfr.allenpress.com>

Sponsoring Organization: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

This research focuses on how siblings are organized following 2 types of family transitions: foster care placements and parental divorce. Its goal was to identify the family characteristics associated with intact and split sibling groups. The sample was composed of 294 families from 3 youth center administrative regions in the province of Quebec, Canada. The results do not indicate any relation between the children's sex or the presence of behavioral problems and the decisions to separate or keep siblings together. Results indicate that siblings are more likely to be separated when children are older and when they have a larger age gap with their siblings; arrangements in which siblings are separated produce greater instability for them. The research shows that separating siblings can be associated with decreased contact between them, whereas siblings can play an important role in helping each other adjust to family transitions. The study concludes that although it may sometimes be appropriate to separate siblings, efforts have to be made to preserve the ties between the children. 5 tables and numerous references. (Author abstract modified)

### **Siblings in foster care: maintaining the ties that bind.**

University of Minnesota. School of Social Work. University of Minnesota. Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare.

2000

*Practice notes.*

(9) p. 1-6

Publication Information: St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare.

Distributed by: University of Minnesota

School of Social Work 105 Peters Hall 1404 Gortner Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55108

Tel: 612-625-1220 800-779-8636

[ssw-info@che.umn.edu](mailto:ssw-info@che.umn.edu)

Available from: <http://ssw.che.umn.edu>

A large number of children who must be placed in foster care are members of sibling groups--estimated between 56% and 85%. National studies disclose that up to 75% of children are separated from at least one of their siblings when placed in foster care, underlining the importance of the issue. Most states have policies and regulations that encourage the maintenance of sibling bonds. In fact, Minnesota has model legislation and guidelines to reinforce the principle of siblings being placed together. While the lifelong value of sibling relationships is acknowledged, the practice field struggles with pragmatic placement issues. Illustratively, concurrent planning and shorter timelines may actually hinder the placement of large sibling groups because it may take longer to find foster/adoptive homes. Attention to the issues of sibling placement has been limited, as reflected in the meager research studies and the lack of focused attention to the barriers in maintaining a vital relationship among siblings. This edition of "Practice Notes" identifies Minnesota's policy, provides some insights from existing studies and suggests recommendations. (Author abstract)

[http://ssw.che.umn.edu/img/assets/11860/practice\\_notes9.pdf](http://ssw.che.umn.edu/img/assets/11860/practice_notes9.pdf)