

Brothers and Sisters: The Original Social Skills Group

Making Things Possible: Social Success

Burr Family Conference at Cotting School

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Facilitator:

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Presenters:

Siblings Daniel and Elizabeth Sicard
Tricia Sicard, mother

Welcome and Introductions

In what ways do sibling relationships affect social-emotional development, adjustment, and the understanding of the social world?

*“The sibling relationship is a natural laboratory for young children to learn about their world. It is a safe and secure place to learn how to interact with others who are interesting and engaging playmates, to learn how to manage disagreements, and to learn how to regulate both positive and negative emotions in socially acceptable ways. There are many opportunities for young children to develop an understanding of social relations with family members who may be close and loving at times and nasty and aggressive at other times. Further, there are many opportunities for siblings to use their cognitive skills to convince others of their point of view, teach, or imitate the actions of their sibling.” **

- Social-cognitive development: Sibling conflict develops skills in perspective-taking, understanding emotion, negotiation, and problem-solving that are generalized outside the sibling relationship and contribute to later social competence. **
- The individuality of each child and their unique sibling relationships affects the development and experience of the family system. **

The experience of families raising children with and without disabilities

- Another kind of variability
- Reflecting on and learning from our experience – our panel
- Group questions and reflections

*Nina Howe, PhD, Holly Reccia, PhD: *Sibling Relations and Their Impact on Children’s Development*
Department of Education and Centre for Research in Human Development
Concordia University, Canada. December 2014 in the Encyclopedia of Early Childhood Development

**McHale, Updegraff, and Whiteman: *Sibling Relationships and Influences in Childhood and Adolescence*
Journal of Marriage and Family, October 1; 74(5): 913-930

