



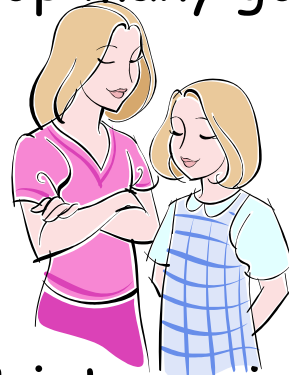
# SIBLING NEEDS

When one child gets more attention due to unique needs.

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# Siblings of Kids with Special Needs (University of Michigan Health System)

- Siblings of children with special needs have special needs themselves. Their brother or sister with special needs will get a bigger share of attention. While this presents challenges, it also comes with opportunities. Kids who grow up with a sib with special or developmental needs may have more of a chance to develop many good qualities including:
  - Patience
  - Kindness and supportiveness
  - Acceptance of differences
  - Compassion and helpfulness
  - Empathy for others and insight into coping with challenges
  - Dependability and loyalty that may come from standing up for their brother or sister



# Important Needs of Siblings (The Autism Society)

- Siblings need **COMMUNICATION** that is open, honest, and developmentally appropriate and ongoing.
- Siblings need developmentally appropriate **INFORMATION** about their siblings special needs.
- Siblings need **PARENTAL ATTENTION** that is consistent, individualized and celebrates their uniqueness.



# Sibling Needs Continued

- Siblings need **TIME** with a parent that is specifically for them.
- Siblings need to **LEARN** interaction skills with their brother or sister with special needs.
- Siblings need **CHOICES** about how involved they are with their brother or sister.
- Siblings need to feel that they and their belongings are **SAFE** from their brother or sister.



# Sibling Needs Continued

- Siblings need to FEEL that their brother or sister is being treated as "normal" as possible.
- Siblings need TIME TO WORK THROUGH THEIR FEELINGS with patience, understanding, and guidance from their parent(s) and or a professional.
- Siblings need opportunities to experience a "NORMAL" family life and activities.
- Siblings need to learn STRATEGIES for dealing with questions and comments from peers.

