

CORRELATING VIEWS BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD ON SIBLING WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME

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Communication Disorders

Communication Between Parents and Children

- ▣ Important in typical families
- ▣ More so in those with members with disorders
- ▣ Breakdown of information may occur
- ▣ Feelings of distress, parental inadequacy, and spousal tension
- ▣ Result is negative environment where adjustment of offspring is affected

Current Research

- ▣ Children with disorders influencing development/functioning of typical sibling
- ▣ Children raised with a sibling with Down's syndrome tend to develop more typically than those with siblings with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Fisman et. al, 2000).
- ▣ Research comparing/contrasting child and parent perceptions

Surveys and Questionnaires

- ▣ Evaluate siblings of children with communication disorders
- ▣ Further understand specific needs
- ▣ SNIP (Sibling Need and Involvement Profile)

SNIP

- ▣ Separate survey for child and parent (all questions correlate for easy comparison of perspectives)
 - ▣ Five categories
 - Awareness
 - Feelings
 - Having fun
 - Helping
 - Advocacy
- (Fish et. al., 1995)

Methods

- ▣ Case study in form of survey using the SNIP and a personal interview
- ▣ Test uses answers of parent and child to infer and compare their perceptions
- ▣ Both took the test (after signing consent forms), without the other in the room to influence each other's answers
- ▣ Both read question (presented as survey on computer) aloud and then stated aloud why they answered as they did.
- ▣ Interviews were recorded and analyzed.

Interpreting Results

- ▣ Factors that influence interpretation
 - Personal interpretation of a question (on part of subject taking a survey)
 - Perception of the 1-5 scale
 - Mood of subject taking survey

Family Characteristics

- ▣ Birth order, age, gender
- ▣ Daughter in study (11)
- ▣ Sibling with Down's syndrome (7)
- ▣ Other male sibling
- ▣ Married parents
- ▣ Sibling with Down's syndrome was adopted and Daughter was consulted before adoption took place.

Influencing Factors Among Disorders

- ▣ Down's syndrome vs. Cerebral palsy and other pervasive developmental disorders
- ▣ Influence of a child with PDD tend to have a more negative impact on typical siblings than a child with Down's syndrome
- ▣ The daughter in this case study has a younger sibling with Down's syndrome
- ▣ Easier communication with a typically developing child

Raw Data from SNIP

Section	Parent	Child
Awareness	7	15
Feelings	13	10
Having Fun	7	8
Helping	11	13
Advocacy	9	8
Total	47	54

For each section there are five or six questions, the 1-5 scale for answering is interpreted into: 1= strongly agree, 2= agree, 3= neutral, 4= disagree, 5= strongly disagree.

Example Questions

- ▣ Asks questions about sister's special needs.
 - Mother's states that in the beginning there were a lot of questions to ask, but at this point it's become routine, so not as many are being asked.
 - ▣ Survey answer 2 (agree)
 - Child states that she doesn't really ask but sometimes she will.
 - ▣ Survey answer 4 (disagree)

Example Questions

- ▣ Sets a good example for brother/sister
 - Mother says that sometimes there is sibling rivalry among the three sibling, so the example isn't always good.
 - ▣ Survey answer 2 (agree)
 - Child says she sets an example, but it's not always good
 - ▣ Survey answer 2 (agree)

Conclusion

- ▣ Communication is the key to making relationships work.
- ▣ Child subject helped decide whether or not to adopt child with Down's syndrome
- ▣ Sister's tend to be close and younger looks up to older.
- ▣ This family correlates greatly, and hopefully this will give their children the best opportunities in life and to grow.

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