

“I liked that you could talk to people about your brothers or sisters.”

-11 year old sibling

“[I liked] that I wasn’t the only person in the world with a sibling with a disability.”

-9 year old sibling



“[My son] seems less resentful of his brother. He also said he learned how he can help his brother.”

-mother of an 8 year old sibling



Introduction

Children who have siblings with special needs have needs of their own, and Sibshops are a way to meet some of those needs. Sibshops were developed by Donald Meyer and Patricia Vadasy, who intended to create an atmosphere that honors sibling contribution and sacrifice.

What is a Sibshop?

Sibshops are celebrations in which siblings of individuals with special needs can come to share experiences and gain peer support. Participants share information, have discussions, cook, and most of all, have fun.

Who can participate?

Anyone, ages five and older, who has a brother or sister with special needs can participate. Participants are divided into age groups to promote the sharing of common experiences.

Sibshop Goals

- Provide siblings an opportunity to meet other siblings in a relaxed, recreational setting.
- Provide siblings opportunities to discuss common joys and concerns with other siblings.
- Provide siblings opportunities to learn how to handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with special needs.
- Provide siblings with opportunities to learn more about the implications of their brother's/sister's special needs.
- Provide parents and other professionals opportunities to learn more about siblings' concerns and experiences.

How can I learn more?

Contact:

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at the University of Florida/Gainesville

1-800-754-5891
www.card.ufl.edu

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I am interested in Sibshops. Please contact me with information about your upcoming Sibshop for this/these age group(s).

Age group

___ 5-8 years old

___ 8-14 years old

___ 14-18 years old

___ adult

Please return this form to:
The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)
University of Florida/Gainesville
PO Box 100234
Gainesville, FL 32610-0234