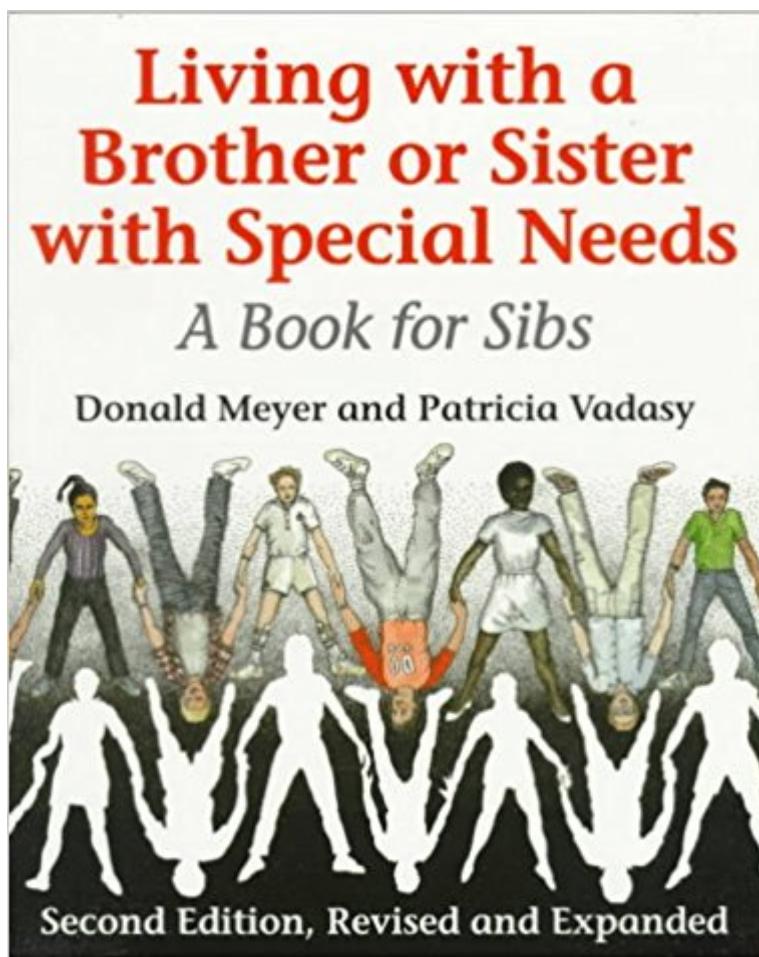


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# Living With A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs: A Book For Sibs



## **Synopsis**

Living with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs focuses on the intensity of emotions that brothers and sisters experience when they have a sibling with special needs, and the hard questions they ask: What caused my sibling's disability? Could my own child have a disability as well? What will happen to my brother or sister if my parents die? Written for young readers, the book discusses specific disabilities in easy to understand terms. It talks about the good and not-so-good parts of having a brother or sister who has special needs, and offers suggestions for how to make life easier for everyone in the family. The book is a wonderful resource, not just for siblings and their parents but also for teachers and other professionals who work with children with special needs. This revised and updated edition includes new sections on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome, fragile X syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, ultrasound, speech therapy, recent legislation on disabilities, and an extensive bibliography.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

"This is a book that has long been awaited! [It] can be highly recommended to families, support groups, professionals and libraries." School Social Work Journal "Good writing for children is relatively ageless and it is a tribute to the authors that most grown-ups would find it tolerable, even pleasurable, to read. The tone is marvelous; there is nothing patronizing about the style. This

is a gem of a book."Ã¢â€¢ JASH

Living with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs focuses on the intensity of emotions that brothers and sisters experience when they have a sibling with special needs, and the hard questions they ask: What caused by sibling's disability? Could my own child have a disability as well? What will happen to my brother or sister if my parents die? Written for young readers, the book discusses specific disabilities in easy to understand terms. It talks about the good and the not-so-good parts of having a brother or sister who has special needs, and offers suggestions for how to make life easier for everyone in the family. The book is a wonderful resource, not just for siblings and their parents but also for teachers and other professionals who work with children with special needs. This revised and updated edition includes new sections on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome, fragile X syndrome, traumatic brain injuries, ultrasound, speech therapy, recent legislation on disabilities, and an extensive bibliography.

Great book

As a parent educator who works with families who have children with special medical needs, as well as a mom of two children with cystic fibrosis, I was very interested this resource. Don Meyer and SibShops is well-known throughout the pediatric medical world. This book, although an older copy (2000), did not disappoint. Chapter 1 was my favorite and most generally useful. The authors discuss what it's like to have a brother or sister with special needs. They talk about: friends, unselfishness, anger, accepting differences, guilt, jealousy, over involvement, understanding, embarrassment, pride, loss, maturity, worry, and loneliness. Each segment starts with a personal story that will help readers relate to the subject being discussed. The authors offer ideas and suggestions for handling the situation appropriately such as using I-statements for expressing feelings. The bulk of the book, Chapters 2-6, includes a very basic description of the specific types and causes of disabilities. The only negative about this version is the slightly dated material in regards to the details of some of the disabilities. Research is changing so rapidly in some areas that it's hard to keep up so be sure to share the changes, particularly the positive changes, with your children. Chapter 7 provides a basic explanation of laws, programs, and services. The final chapter, 8, talks about concerns for the future and the role a sibling may play in a disabled child's life. The language level of this book is written for older children- a mature 10-year-old could handle it. And let's face it, many siblings with a special needs sib are mature beyond their years. This is also a

good, basic resource to help parents understand what their well child may be experiencing. I highly recommend this resource. For more information about raising children with special health care needs including a chapter on sibling relationships from a parenting point of view, check out the book "Parenting Children with Health Issues" by Cline/Greene. [...]

...for this fund of invaluable information. I highly recommend this book along with Meyer's other stellar gem, "Views From Our Shoes," which addresses the needs siblings of people with special needs have. This book lends the voice of hope, confidence and clarity to the experiences many people whose siblings with special needs have. It not only sheds light on many questions that often crop up, it also provides a safe forum to explore any and all sibling related issues. I like the way Meyer respects his readers' intelligence. It is so critical, in fact paramount for people to be informed about the special needs their siblings have. That is a good way to foster honest relationships and inclusion within the family. That also promotes acceptance of the members who have special needs. Meyer's book serves as a medical, legal and educational advocate. It provides much needed information about services in these areas. I especially liked the part where people are strongly encouraged and rightfully so to make provisions for their children with special needs and to keep the other children without special needs informed of these decisions. People with special needs are vital members of their respective families and each person impacts upon the lives of others. That is still another reason why it is so crucial to have frank, open discussions with all the family members so as to keep the lines of communication open and to prevent secrets and fear. The fear of the unknown and the lack of communication causes problems and helps no one. I wish this book had existed a generation ago! I can't recommend it highly enough and it is a book for everybody, parents; all children; educators; medical professionals and the world at large. I love this book!

I am a Japanese and I am a "sibling." I encountered this book and Don Meyer's Sibling Support Project in October of 1997. At that time, I was struggling to persuade the staff of a (sibling) group that support for siblings was as important as support for people with special needs. In my view this book gave me confidence and shed light on my road to start a new sibling support group. Some uncommon feelings, opportunities and concerns that siblings might have are described in Chapter 1. Medical knowledge of various disabilities are written about in Chapters 2-6. Since siblings are not often informed about their siblings' disabilities by anyone, it could cause more concern; this book's objective is very important. You can also get basic knowledge of laws, programs, and services for persons with disabilities and their families in the U.S., in Chapter 7. In Chapter 8, an uncommon

concern is discussed: where will my sister (brother) live when she (he) grows up. The authors continues by stressing the fact that parents should tell their plans for their disabled children to their "normal" children, and offers suggestions for doing this. Since this book is intended for young siblings, it is easy for me to read it as a foreigner. Reading Chapter 1, tears welled up in my eyes. I could relate to many things: friends, unselfishness, accepting differences, guilt, overinvolvement, understanding, embarrassment, loss, maturity, worry and loneliness. I wish I could have read it in Japanese when I was a child ! I strongly recommend young and adult siblings, parents and service providers to read this book all over the world, because siblings need peer support and information in a straightforward manner.

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