

## Sibshops Support Project Goals



- To provide brothers and sisters of children with special needs an opportunity to meet other siblings in a relaxed recreational setting.
- To provide brothers and sisters with an opportunity to discuss common joys and concerns with other siblings.
- To provide siblings with an opportunity to learn how others handle situations commonly experienced by siblings of children with special needs.
- To provide siblings with an opportunity to learn more about the implications of their brothers' and sisters' special needs.



## Why the Need for Sibling Support?

The sibling relationship is often the longest-lasting (and closest) relationship in a family. Research has shown that siblings of children with special needs have specific concerns that children with typically developing siblings never face. These concerns include isolation, caregiving responsibilities, guilt, pressure to achieve, and concerns about their and their siblings' future.

Opportunities are also experienced by siblings. These include loyalty, pride, insight, and appreciation of one's own health and abilities. Special education programs have traditionally provided parent support groups, recognizing that parents need special involvement. Siblings have long been overlooked when agencies set up family programs. But to truly involve the whole family, siblings need to be included as well. Sibshops have been developed to address the needs of these young siblings and have proven to be very successful

For more information



For more information on SibKids and SibNet:

### Sibling Support Project A Kindering Program



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## What are Sibshops?

Sibshops provide brothers and sisters of children with special needs an opportunity to meet other siblings in a relaxed, recreational setting.

They are not therapy sessions, although many parents report they are therapeutic for their children who attend. Sibshops are led by trained facilitators and are geared toward school-age children, ages 8-13.

Sibshops can be modified for pre-school attendees or for teenage participants. Many times, a Sibshop is the first opportunity siblings have to meet others who have special needs brothers or sisters and those who understand what their life is about.

Sibshops are the creation of Don Meyer of the Kindering Center. Meyer has been involved in the establishment of sibling support programs across the United States, as well as numerous foreign countries. Detailed information can be found at the Sibling Support Project's web site at

[www.siblingsupport.org](http://www.siblingsupport.org)



## Tennessee School for the Deaf and Sibshops

TSD has been sponsoring Sibshops since 1992. They are held on a quarterly basis at the school and are open to siblings from surrounding counties. TSD works in conjunction with Knox County Schools and local parent support groups to identify participants. TSD's Sibshop team is involved in not only local sibling support, but also at the national and international level.

### Sibshops have been sponsored at these locations:

- Kentucky School for the Deaf
- Texas School for the Deaf
- West Tennessee School for the Deaf
- Vanderbilt University
- University of Tennessee,
  - Chattanooga
  - Memphis
  - Nashville
- Tennessee Infant Parent Service
- Scuola Audiofonetica in Brescia, Italy



TSD has sponsored two statewide training programs for Sibshop leaders. The TSD Sibshop team has presented to numerous parent and provider organizations. Some of those include the Tennessee STEP Convention; the American Society for Deaf Children biennial convention; the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare; the Autism Society; the Texas School for the Deaf's Family Learning Vacation; the Kentucky School for the Deaf's Family Learning Weekend; "Essere Fratelli" The Italian National Conference on Siblings of Deaf Children; the International CHARGE Syndrome Conference; and the Canadian Conference on Deafblindness.



## SibKids & SibNet

The Sibling Support Project of the Kindering Center in Seattle, Washington, is pleased to announce SibNet and SibKids. Sibnet and SibKids are the only listservs for and about brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental, and emotional needs.

Both SibKids (for younger brothers and sisters) and SibNet (for older siblings) allow brothers and sisters an opportunity to share information and discuss issues of common interest with their peers from around the world. Both listservs have members from the US, Canada, Australia, England, Ireland, Israel, Iceland, Hong Kong, Japan, and New Zealand. Parents, service providers, and others interested in the well-being of brothers and sisters also subscribe to SibKids and SibNet.

Anyone who has email can subscribe to SibKids and SibNet. For a no-cost subscription and to learn more about SibKids and SibNet, please visit the Sibling Support Project's website

[www.siblingsupport.org](http://www.siblingsupport.org)

If you have further questions about SibKids, SibNet, or the work of the Sibling Support Project, please check the back of this brochure for contact information.

