

SUPPORTING SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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Dr. Jeff Lichtman
Director, Student Mental Health Services
Director, Jewish Education/Special Education
Touro University
LichtmanJ@gmail.com

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AGENDA

Introduction

Parents set the stage

Parenting is the most difficult task we have

Strategies

Summary

Questions and Comments

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INTRODUCTION

- Cain and Abel
- Many variables to consider:
 - Nature and degree of the special need
 - Comorbidity
 - Personality
 - Age and gender of sibling(s)

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I HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER WITH DOWN SYNDROME. ONE DAY I WENT TO SCHOOL, AND A BOY IN MY CLASS WAS MAKING FUN OF MY BROTHER. I SAID, "HEY, THAT'S MY BROTHER!" HE SAID, "SORRY."

Jennifer Borkowski

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PARENTS SET THE STAGE

You are the movie director

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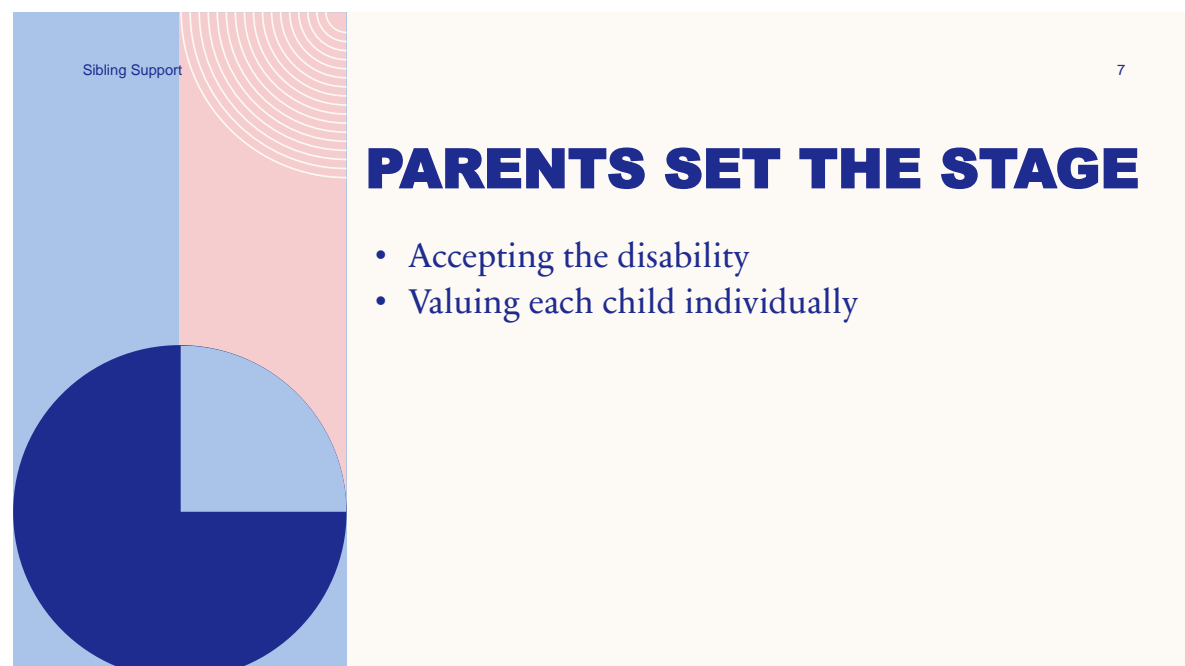
Sibling Support

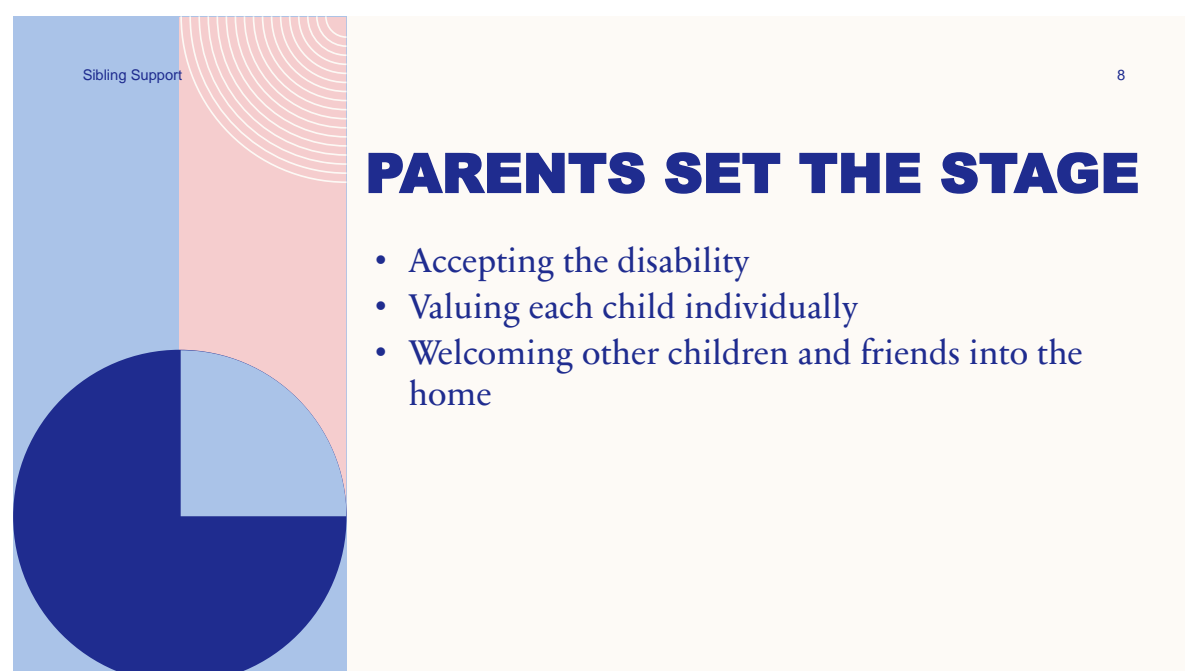
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PARENTS SET THE STAGE

- Accepting the disability

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PARENTS SET THE STAGE

- Accepting the disability
- Valuing each child individually
- Welcoming other children and friends into the home
- Being fair
 - Fair is NOT giving each child the same
 - Fair is giving each child what they need

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PLEASE DO NOT BE EMBARRASSED. IF YOU THINK FOR A WHILE, IT IS A MIRACLE THAT G-D CREATED A NEW LIFE. G-D PUTS DISABLED CHILDREN WITH PEOPLE WHO HE FEELS CAN LOVE AND TAKE CARE OF THEM BEST. I LOVE MY BROTHER. I WOULDN'T GIVE HIM UP FOR THE WORLD. HE IS SO CUTE.

Jennifer Borkowski

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PARENTING IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE

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Sibling support

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**PARENTING IS THE MOST
DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE**

1. Limit caretaking responsibility

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Sibling support

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**PARENTING IS THE MOST
DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE**

1. Limit caretaking responsibility
2. Let siblings settle their own differences

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Sibling support

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**PARENTING IS THE MOST
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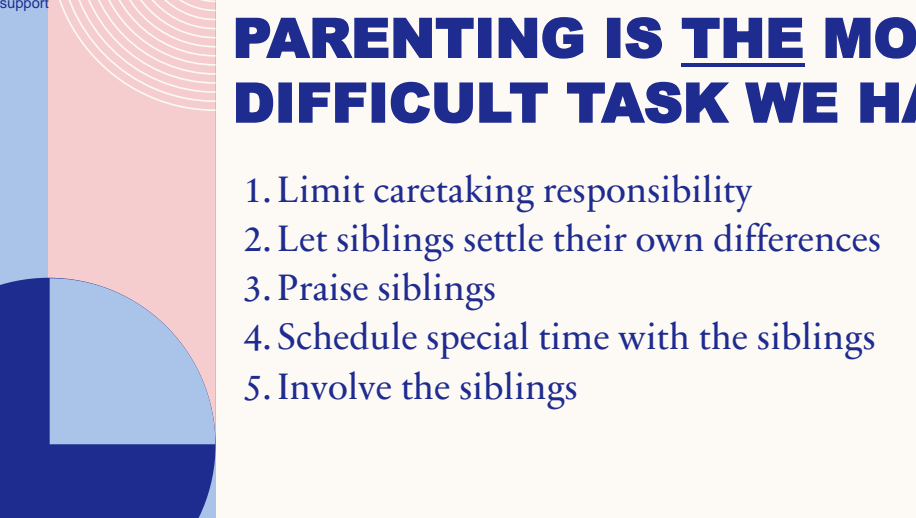
1. Limit caretaking responsibility
2. Let siblings settle their own differences
3. Praise siblings

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PARENTING IS THE MOST
DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE

1. Limit caretaking responsibility
2. Let siblings settle their own differences
3. Praise siblings
4. Schedule special time with the siblings



Sibling support

PARENTING IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE

1. Limit caretaking responsibility
2. Let siblings settle their own differences
3. Praise siblings
4. Schedule special time with the siblings
5. Involve the siblings

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PARENTING IS THE MOST
DIFFICULT TASK WE HAVE

1. Limit caretaking responsibility


2. Let siblings settle their own differences

3. Praise siblings

4. Schedule special time with the siblings

5. Involve the siblings

6. Listen to siblings



IF YOU ARE EMBARRASSED, TALK TO SOMEONE...IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL MUCH, MUCH, MUCH BETTER. DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE A LOT OF FEELINGS. IF THE WORLD DID NOT HAVE DISABLED CHILDREN, WHERE WOULD ALL THE LOVE BE?

Jennifer Borkowski

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STRATEGIES

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Sibling support



STRATEGIES

1. Require the child with special needs to do as much as possible for him/herself

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Sibling support

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STRATEGIES

1. Require the child with special needs to do as much as possible for him/herself
2. “Teach” siblings how to interact

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Sibling support

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STRATEGIES

1. Require the child with special needs to do as much as possible for him/herself
2. “Teach” siblings how to interact
3. Provide opportunities for “normal” family life and activities

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WHILE THERE CAN BE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED, SUCH AS INCREASED CAPACITY FOR EMPATHY, GREATER TOLERANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES, AND RESILIENCY.

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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THANK YOU

Jeff Lichtman
lichtmanj@gmail.com



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