

When it comes to sibling rivalry issues within a family, it can be tricky to resolve the issues that come up between your children. Throughout the years, and five children later, I have learned that there are tricks and tips that do help to solve this issue before it becomes an issue that becomes out of hand. For children between the ages of birth to 8, there should be expectations that are and are not expected of the child in this age group. Addressing the developmentally appropriate expectations when handling sibling rivalry is important. Also, the way that you discipline is vital to the end game for this issue. For this reason I address the Ethical considerations for sibling rivalry. ENJOY!!

References

Boyse, K. (2011). Sibling rivalry. University of Michigan Health System. Retrieved from: [www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/sibriv.htm](http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/sibriv.htm)

NAEYC. (2005). Code of ethical conduct and statement of commitment: A position statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Retrieved from: [www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSETH05.pdf](http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSETH05.pdf)

Sibling Rivalry Issues

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The ethical implications that arise when discussing and trying to resolve sibling rivalry can be bountiful. But there are a few that are very important that I think should be discussed no matter what, in the classroom and outside of the classroom. According to the NAEYC guidelines (2005), the Principles and Ideals that are used in these guidelines protect the child and the Early Childhood professional from harm to the children and from harm to themselves. The guideline that I think is most important is P- 1.11 from the Ethical Responsibilities to Children that relates to addressing sibling rivalry states, “When we become aware of a practice or situa-

tion that endangers the health, safety, or well-being of

children, we have an ethical responsibility to protect

children or inform parents and/or others who can” (p. 3). This principle relates the best because, at least to me, if a parent is not responding to sibling rivalry in the appropriate ways, the children will cause abuse and the parents unknowingly or knowingly cause neglect of the children. It is our responsibility to provide a safe place for the children and to intervene whenever it is needed to protect the children. When addressing a topic such as this one, being polite and gentle is the best way to go. You do not want a parent thinking that you are telling them that they are not parenting their children in the correct manner. Just be polite and do not tell the parentsthat this is the way you should or should not do. This will definitely make them feel threatened.

There are many tips that one can use just by doing a simple google search. But, I have taken the search and refined it to reputable and dependable website only. These are the best tips that were offered:

• Do not play favorites! (This is a big one).

•Do not compare your children to one another.

•Make sure each child has enough time and space of their own.

•Set aside “alone time” for each child, if possible.

•Let each child know they are special in their own way.

•Listen -really listen- to how your children really feel about what is going on in the family. They may not be so demanding if they know you at least care how they feel.

•Do not yell or lecture, it will not help.

•Encourage win-win negotiations, where each side gains something.

•Give your kids reminders and advanced warnings (e.g. counting to 3).

•Learn to manage your own anger, so you can teach your children how to manage their anger.

•Teach conflict resolution skills during calm times.

\*All tips come from the same resource, (Boyse, 2011, pg.1-2).

(Above) 3 of the 5 of my children. Nathan, Tyler, and Jocelyn.(Below) My youngest Braydin. (Below to right) My youngest daughter Jasmine. These children know a thing or two about sibling rivalry!

