



# Is there a Relationship Between Parenting Styles and Sibling Relationships in Families Raising a Child With a Disability?

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# Background

- Of 53.9 million children ages 5 to 17 in 2010, about 2.8 million had a disability
- Parent/family factors are stronger predictors of sibling adjustment difficulties than siblings' own experiences of stress and coping
- Ambiguous findings related to sibling relationships in families raising a child with a disability (CWD)
  - Some positive
  - Some negative
- Minimal information about parenting in families raising a CWD



# Purpose

- ❧ Examine perceptions of parenting styles and sibling relationships according to
  - ❧ Parent gender
  - ❧ Sibling gender
  - ❧ Type of disability
- ❧ Determine whether or not there is a linkage between parenting styles and sibling relationships in families raising a CWD

# Sample

- ❧ 124 mothers; 108 fathers
  - ❧ CWD families: Shriners Hospital, conferences for families raising a CWD, early intervention programs
  - ❧ Control group: snowball referral
- ❧ CWD:
  - ❧ Autism n=39
  - ❧ Multiple disabilities n=23
  - ❧ Mental retardation n=44
  - ❧ Orthopedic condition n=34
  - ❧ Other n=15
    - ❧ speech problems, coordination problems, hearing impairments, vision problems, paralysis, cerebral palsy
- ❧ Control: n=37

# Method

- Each parent individually completed
  - 62-item Parenting Practices Report
  - 28-item Schaefer Sibling Inventory of Behavior
- Mothers completed a demographic questionnaire

# Parenting Practices Report

## ☞ Authoritative

☞ Encourages children to be independent but still places limits and controls on their actions

## ☞ Authoritarian

☞ Restrictive, punitive style in which parents exhort the child to follow their directions and to respect their work and effort

## ☞ Permissive

☞ Parents are very involved with their children but place few demands or controls on them

☞ Likert scale: 1 (never) to 5 (always)

# Sibling Inventory of Behavior

- ☞ Evaluates sibling relationships according to how often parents see
  - ☞ Kindness
  - ☞ Avoidance
  - ☞ Involvement
  - ☞ Empathy
- ☞ Likert scale: 1 (never) to 5 (always)



# Statistical analysis

- Ɔ Descriptive
- Ɔ Correlations
- Ɔ ANOVA

# Parent demographics

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Mean (SD) OR %</b>
Mothers' age	39.74 (7.26)
Fathers' age	41.49 (7.38)
Mothers' education	14.95 years (2.05)
Fathers' education	15.9 years (2.61)
Mothers' work/week	13.71 (16.16)
Fathers' work/week	45.05(10.54)
% mothers working full time	32.5%
% fathers working full time	82.7%

# Sample description

## ☞ CWD

☞ 59.3% male

☞ Mean age 8.50 years (SD = 4.42).

## ☞ Siblings

☞ 46.5% male

☞ Mean age 10.43 years (SD = 3.28):

## ☞ Families

☞ 85.8% Caucasian

☞ 87.8% two-parent

☞ Most earned more than \$50,000

# Results: Parenting Practices

	Parents Mean
Authoritative	3.79
Authoritarian	1.98
Permissive	1.84

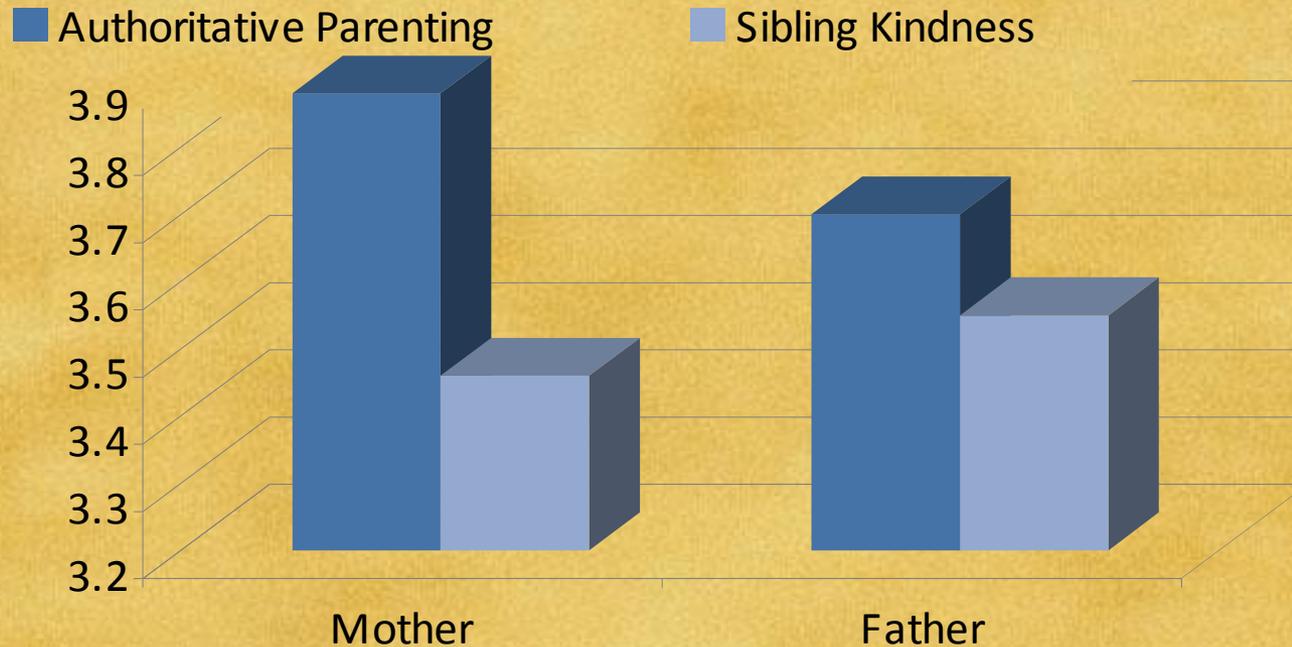
Interpretation: parents between sometimes and often authoritative, and seldom authoritarian or permissive

# Results: Sibling Relationships

	Sibling Mean
Avoidance	1.73
Kindness	3.51
Involvement	3.44
Empathy	4.02

Interpretation: siblings seldom avoid, are between sometimes and often kind and involved, and are often empathetic

# Significant Differences in Variables According to Parent Gender



- Authoritative parenting  $p < .001$
- Sibling kindness  $p < .05$

# Significant Differences: Sibling Relationship Variables According to Sibling and Parent Gender

	Male	Female
<b><u>Mothers</u></b>		
<b>Involvement*</b>	3.28	<b><u>3.59</u></b>
<b>Empathy**</b>	3.92	<b><u>4.26</u></b>
<b><u>Fathers</u></b>		
<b>Empathy*</b>	3.84	<b><u>4.15</u></b>

\*  $p < .05$

\*\*  $p < .01$

# Significant Correlations: Parenting and Sibling Relationship Variables

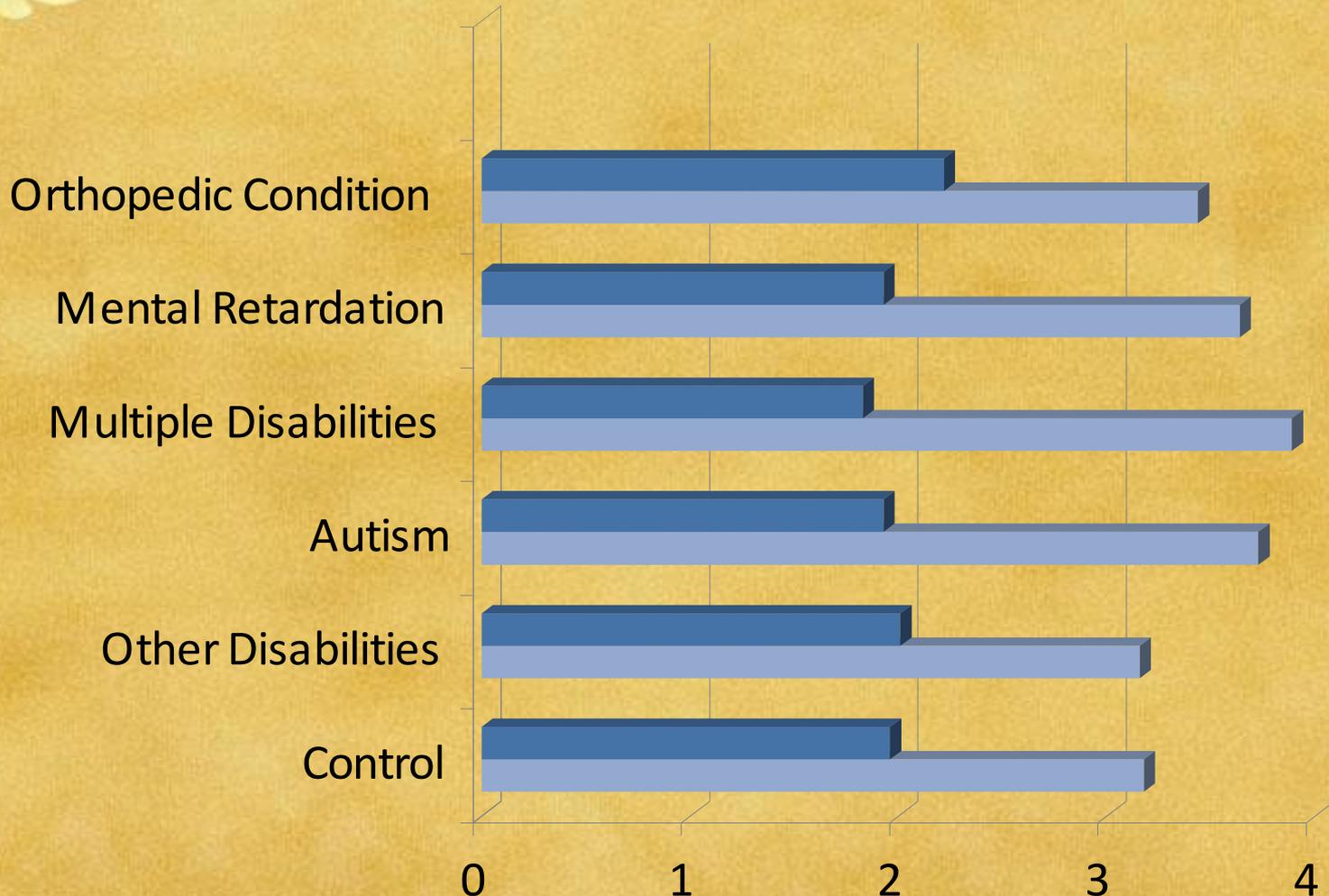
	Avoidance	Kindness	Involvement	Empathy
<b><u>Mothers</u></b>				
Authoritative	<u><b>-.28**</b></u>	.39**	.27**	.45**
Authoritarian		<u><b>-.18*</b></u>		<u><b>-.23*</b></u>
Permissive	.19*			
<b><u>Fathers</u></b>				
Authoritative		.24*	.43**	.44**
Authoritarian		<u><b>-.37**</b></u>	<u><b>-.31**</b></u>	<u><b>-.34**</b></u>

\* p < .05    \*\* p < .01

# Sibling Kindness and Authoritarian Parenting According to Disability

■ Sibling Kindness

■ Authoritarian Parenting



Sibling Kindness  $p < .001$ ; Authoritarian Parenting  $p < .05$

# Results

- ❧ Parents rated sibling relationships positively
- ❧ Mothers
  - ❧ more authoritative than fathers
  - ❧ believed female siblings more involved than male siblings
- ❧ Fathers: siblings kinder than mothers
- ❧ Both parents: female siblings more empathetic than male siblings
- ❧ Authoritative parenting: positively related to kindness, involvement, and empathy for both parents
- ❧ Authoritarian parenting: negatively related to kindness and empathy for both parents
- ❧ Permissive parenting: positively related to avoidance for mothers only
- ❧ Authoritarian parenting: negatively related to involvement for fathers only



# Results, continued

- Parenting styles and sibling kindness vary according to type of disability
  - Parents more authoritarian if child has Orthopedic condition
  - Kindness highest in families raising a child with multiple disabilities



# Implications

☞ Knowing which parenting practices are likely to be associated with different disabilities helps health care providers create suitable interventions



# Recommendations

- ❧ Encourage authoritative parenting
- ❧ Include a focus on fathers in parenting interventions, especially if CWD has an orthopedic condition
- ❧ Help male siblings develop empathy
- ❧ Encourage kindness in siblings of children with a variety of disabilities



# Nursing

❧ Family Centered Care

❧ Individualize care







Thank you!

Comments and Questions?