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## **Specific Worries of Children with Siblings who have Special Needs: A Comparison between Down Syndrome and Typical Development**

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Poster Presentation 16

**SPECIFIC WORRIES OF CHILDREN WITH SIBLINGS WHO HAVE  
SPECIAL NEEDS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN DOWN SYNDROME  
AND TYPICAL DEVELOPMENT**

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In this exploratory study, 12 children with siblings with Down syndrome and 12 children with typically developing siblings were interviewed about general anxiety and specific worries concerning their sibling. Parents completed parallel measures regarding the child participant's anxieties as well as a general measure of child behavior. Data were analyzed to determine whether siblings of children with Down syndrome have more specific worries and heightened general anxiety as compared to controls. Differences between siblings as a function of age and gender were also investigated. Implications of the study include validity testing of the sibling worries measure and clinical evaluation of the children's use of support systems and need for relevant information about their siblings.