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Children's Social Interactions

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Oral Presentation O9.1

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

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This research used an experimental design to study social relationships of children who have a sibling with autism. Participants, children and adolescents ages 8-16, completed the experiment using computer software which presented photographs and descriptions of children presented as potential classmates. These target potential classmates varied on 2 dimensions: first, whether or not they had a physical or intellectual disability and second, whether they were of high or low physical attractiveness. The participants answered questions regarding their willingness to help, overall liking, and willingness to interact with these target potential classmates. The primary research hypothesis was that siblings of children with autism would be more compassionate toward peers with differences when their sibling relationship was activated, or primed, versus when a neutral relationship was primed. Data was analyzed using a 2 (priming) X 2 (attractiveness) X 2 (disability) mixed ANOVA design.