

There are abbreviated materials - "Information Packets" - that are included in this list. This list represents only materials primarily on this topic. However, there are other materials that speak to this topic available in the library (i.e., brief "Articles," etc.). Contact ORPARC for additional materials.

## Siblings

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Material Title: **Adoption Trilogy, The: Three films by Jean Strauss (DVD)**  
 Author: Jean Strauss *DVDs* 2006 46 minutes

"Holding Hands", 2006, examines the relationship between Strauss and her brother, Bobby. Separated through adoption and reunited as adults, Strauss was with her brother when he died. The film addresses the issue of lifelong sibling severance in adoption and foster care. Multi-award winning short, "The Triumvirate" 2004, tells the story of Strauss's reunion with her birthmother and birth grandmother. "Vital Records" 2005, was created to help legislators understand the debate on legislation which would provide access for adoptees to their original records.

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Material Title: **Blended Families: Foster, Adoptive, Bio and Multicultural Sibs (VHS)**  
 Author: Ed-Net Series *Videotapes* 1996 2 hours

A panel of speakers including a DHS adoption worker, Foster/Adoption parent, and social worker from the Casey Family Program, discussed the external impacts on development of identity, the role of significant others in development of identity, the five stages of identity development, and the challenges of a blended family.

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Material Title: **Brothers and Sisters in Adoption**  
 Author: Arleta James *Books* 2009 480 pages

Adding a child with a history of neglect or trauma to a family that already has children cannot be a seamless transition. The expectations of everyone involved must be realistic. The new child will need special attention and services that may take away time and attention from the already resident kids; family life is likely to be turned topsy-turvy until appropriate counseling and supports are in place; relationships will change. Here are insights and practical tools to help newly configured families prepare, and mobilize to meet the practical, physical and emotional needs of all family members.

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Material Title: **Honoring Sibling Relationships (CD)**  
 Author: NACAC Conference 2006 CD *CDs* 2006 90 minutes

For children who have spent time in foster care, some of their greatest angst comes from being separated from their siblings. How can we as parents, advocates and professionals help ensure that siblings have the opportunity to grow up together, and when they do not, that their relationships and bonds are honored, valued and protected?

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Material Title: **How I Became a Big Brother: An Adoption Story\* (Children's Materials)**  
 Author: Dave Moore *Children's Books* 2008 19 pages

This is a simple adoption story told from the standpoint of a little boy whose biological parents decide to bring another child into the home through adoption. They prepare him for welcoming his new brother, and despite some early apprehension, he enthusiastically welcomes this newcomer into his family.

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Material Title: **Keeping Families Healthy (3 Audiotapes)**  
 Author: Holly van Gulden *Audiotapes* 2002 3 hours 30 mins

Healthy siblings seldom receive enough attention and support when another child acts out. How do parents and children cope with this dilemma? What are healthy children's needs in time of crisis? This first of three workshops attempts to clarify such issues.

Adopted children who struggle with unresolved loss and/or poor attachment often exhibit acute episodes of rage and chronic or intermittent patterns of passive-aggressive non-compliance. Understandably, such behaviors can and do trigger angry responses, sometimes rage, in parents and siblings. This workshop analyzes anger and offers techniques for avoiding continual battles, managing healthier anger resolution, de-escalating rage episodes, and establishing a healthy, joyful family environment.

When the adopted child brings severe stress to the family, parents need help in sorting out what is going on. What are the needs of the child, siblings, and parents? This workshop discusses how to help parents evaluate conflicting needs of family members and how to let go of their dream -- their expectations of this child and their adoption.

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Material Title: **Little Heroes Foster Care and Adoption\* (Children's Materials)**  
 Author: Kristin & Tracy Condon & Crabb *Children's Books* 2003 32 pages

This issue focuses on two brothers, Robert and Philip, in the welfare system and their tale of new homes and separation. Little Heroes can help brothers and sisters of a new child in the family be more tolerant of the emotional turmoil of adoption, as well as help them accept the new sibling's behaviors that frustrate them and contribute to conflict in sibling relationships.

# Siblings

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Material Title: **Sibling Connection, The: Keeping Brothers & Sisters Together Through Adoption (DVD)**  
Author: DVD *DVDs* 30 minutes

This documentary combines footage of adopted siblings and adoption professionals and dramatizations of the childhoods of some of the adopted siblings to demonstrate the importance of keeping siblings together whenever possible and to keep them in touch when same-home placements are not possible.

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Material Title: **Siblings Confusion: Were You, Are You, Will You Be My Sister/Brother? (Audiotape)**  
Author: Audiotape *Audiotapes* 2002 76 minutes

In this workshop, speaker, Joyce Maguire Pavao outlines some of the critical issues for birth parents, and adoptive parents, with regards to the relationships between their children and those children's siblings.

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Material Title: **Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care: Traumatic Separations and Honored Connections**  
Author: Deborah N. Silverstein and Susan Livingston Smith *Books*

Contributors address not only the importance of nurturing sibling bonds and mental health strategies to support those relationships, but also the legal rights of siblings to be together, as well as issues in international adoptions. Emerging and standing programs to encourage and facilitate adoptions that keep siblings together are featured, as are programs that at least enable them to stay in contact. "Theory and research, practice guidelines, and stories, are all explored." The contributing authors include educators, clinicians, researchers, practitioners, psychologists, and youth.

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Material Title: **Siblings in Late Permanent Placements**  
Author: Alan Rushton *Books* 2001 164 pages

This publication from British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF), intended for practitioners and researchers in the fields of both social work and children's mental health care, looks at issues surrounding permanent placement of children who have siblings. The research study follows a sample of 133 children placed with 72 new families in middle childhood in the UK and explores the patterns of separation and reunion and compares the outcomes for jointly and singly placed children.

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Material Title: **Siblings Without Rivalry**  
Author: Adele Faber *Books* 1998 240 pages

This book, not related to adoption, challenges the notion that constant, unpleasant conflict among siblings is natural and unavoidable. It uses action-oriented, accessible anecdotes and stories to show parents many ways to teach children to get along. The highly informative text is punctuated with helpful summary/reminder boxes and cartoons illustrating key points.

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Material Title: **Siblings: Always and Forever (Audiotape)**  
Author: Audiotape *Audiotapes* 2002

Hundreds of sibling groups are placed yearly across the country. In many cases siblings are separated. This workshop focuses on the continued contact of a sibling group of three children placed in two separate homes. It explores the creativity of families who have joined in the best interest of their children.

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Material Title: **Supporting Brothers and Sisters: Creating a Family by Birth, Foster Care, and Adoption**  
Author: Arleta M. James *DVDs* 2005 96 minutes

The video clips are facilitated by Gregory C. Keck, founder and director, Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio. The video features five families parenting a combination of typically-developing children and adopted children. The adoptees arrived in the family after experiencing trauma – institutionalization, multiple foster homes, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, pre-natal drug/alcohol exposure and abandonment. The parents and the typical kids speak candidly about their expectations prior to placement, and these families speak to adjusting these expectations post-placement – the losses experienced, dealing with negative behaviors, time management, and the development of daily and long-term coping strategies. The families also acknowledge the positive aspects of building a family via adoption.