

## Tell us Your Story

Share stories, advice, and lessons from your own life about living with a special needs sibling. Email completed form to [contact@specialsiblingsconnect.org](mailto:contact@specialsiblingsconnect.org).

### Personal Information

Please fill out the below information so that we can contact you if needed. If your advice or story is published, we will disclose only your first name/pseudonym, your sibling's condition, and the ages of family members. Other information provided may be used for statistical purposes only and will not be disclosed on an individual basis.

Name (first and last -- we will only publish first name): \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer to go by a pseudonym, please enter it here: \_\_\_\_\_

Did a parent fill out this form for a child?

- Yes  
 No

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred method of contact?

- Email  
 Phone call  
 Text  
 Other:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent guardian name and email, if you are a minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings with special needs age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sibling with special needs condition: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have other siblings, list their ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live (country, state, and city): \_\_\_\_\_

Have you connected with other siblings of special needs kids?

- Yes  
 No

If you have, how helpful has it been?

Not at all      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10      Very helpful

### Stories and Advice

Share some advice, thoughts, or a story relating to living as a sibling of a special needs kid. You can choose to answer as much or as little as you would like (a sentence, page, paragraph, multiple pages, etc). Even one sentence is greatly appreciated. If you don't know what to write, look at the examples for inspiration. If you want to contribute more, feel free! If you need extra space, you can use the attached piece of paper or any paper of your choice.

**Would you prefer to have a call where you can work with us on writing your advice or stories?**

If so, you do not need to answer the following questions. We will contact you to set up a time.

- Yes
- No

**Can we follow up if we have more questions?**

- Yes
- No

**Thoughts**

Examples:

- 1) Just because I complain about my brother does not mean I don't love it.
- 2) I wish that when my sister comes into my room and messes it up, my mom would defend me instead of lecturing me about being nice to my sister.
- 3) Sometimes I do not want my sister to go to events--not because I am embarrassed about her, but because I want to play with others and no one else will play with her if she comes.

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**Advice**

Examples:

- 1) Think about equity, not equality: you and your sibling both have different needs, so you require different attention.
- 2) If you feel like your parents ever don't care about you or aren't giving you enough attention, talk to them about it. It's probably just a miscommunication and they didn't mean to make you feel that way.

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**Short story**

Example:

It's hard watching all of my friends go on family vacations when my family isn't able to because of my sister. She needs a lot of medical support and attention, so we are scared to go too far away in case there is an emergency, and it is difficult to transport all the medical equipment she needs. But I wish I could travel more and post pictures on Instagram like my friends do when they travel every summer and spring break. For my tenth birthday, my parents had my aunt come watch my sister, so my parents and I could go on a weekend trip out-of-town, but it didn't feel the same without my sister there. I know there wasn't anything that could be done, but I wish I could share my fun and travels with her. I've started trying to have as much fun with her as I can. Sometimes I have sleepovers in her room and we pretend it is our own mini-vacation.

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**Longer story**

If you want to submit a longer story, please attach it when you email it to [contact@specialsiblingsconnect.org](mailto:contact@specialsiblingsconnect.org).

## Authorization

### Terms and Conditions:

#### Term I: Plagiarism

- I verify that the information I provide (my “Story”) is my own original creation; is factually accurate; and has not been copied, plagiarized, co-opted, or appropriated from the work of any other person.
- I own the Story and the rights that I am giving to Special Siblings Connect. I have the right, power, and authority to enter into this agreement, and allowing Special Siblings Connect to use my Story does not violate any one else’s rights (including copyright or proprietary rights to my Story).
- I am fully responsible for any legal action that may occur as a result of a violation of Term I (Plagiarism).
- Special Siblings Connect is in no way liable for any legal action if I violate Term I.

#### Term II: Publication Rights

- I give an irrevocable, unqualified, and transferable worldwide license to Special Siblings Connect to use my Story (including to edit, publish, reproduce, reprint, distribute, and sell it). Special Siblings Connect may publish my Story in any medium, including print and online publications.
- I am not entitled to any royalties or other compensation from Special Siblings Connect if it decides to publish my Story.
- I understand that Special Siblings Connect has absolute discretion to decide whether to publish my Story and may decide not to publish it.
- I understand that if Special Siblings Connect publishes my Story on its website: (1) visitors to the website may be able to publish comments on the website about my Story; (2) Special Siblings Connect does not control these comments; and (3) Special Siblings Connect is neither responsible for the accuracy, reliability, completeness, or appropriateness of any comments nor for verifying the identity of any party posting a comment.
- While Special Siblings Connect will attempt to monitor comments on the website and flag and/or remove comments that it concludes in its sole and absolute discretion are inappropriate, Special Siblings Connect will not be obligated to do so.
- Special Siblings Connect may use my Story in its promotional materials, including social media.
- I agree to collaborate with editors regarding alterations and abridgments including, but not limited to, re-formatting, grammatical correction, and cropping.

#### Term III: Personal Rights

- I will retain full financial and creative privileges over my Story, other than the specific rights that I am giving to Special Siblings Connect in this agreement.
- If my Story is accepted, I will still have the right to publish it in any other publication.
- I retain the right to profit from my Story, so long as I do not attempt to profit from its publication or use by Special Siblings Connect.

#### Term IV: Miscellaneous

- The preceding paragraphs contain the entire agreement between me and Special Siblings Connect regarding Special Siblings Connect’s potential use of my Story.
- Special Siblings Connect has not made any representations or promises to me other than what is in this agreement.
- I have agreed to provide my Story in exchange for Special Siblings Connect’s agreement to consider publishing it so other people can learn about my experience as a special needs sibling.

**I have read the preceding terms and conditions, understand them, and agree to be bound by them.**

Printed name	Signature
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**If you are a minor, have a parent or guardian sign here**

Printed name	Signature
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Thank you for connecting.  
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