Sibling Issues in Families Who Have a Child With a Disability

Doug and Lynn Richards

- **Introduction**
  - Us
  - Our Family
  - FOJK

- Historical Perspectives

- Historical Perspectives

  Letter from 1955

- Historical Perspectives
    - Letter from 1955
    - Doug's family

- Historical Perspectives

Letter from 1955

Doug's family

Lessons learned

Changes in attitudes

Families enriched...

■ Experience

Ours – Early years with Lauren

Therapists

Physicians

Extended family

Frustrations

■ Experience

　　　Ours - Communication

　　　　　Including Lauren

　　　　　One on one

　　　　　Conversations

Experience

Ours – Conversations

"Your sister can't do _____, so these exercises will help."

"Your sister can do _____, but not _____ yet."

"How can you include your sister in this game? Ill play
 the next round with just you."

■ Experience
  Ours – Marriage
     Healing
     Self
     Each other

■ Experience

Others –   Author Mary McHugh

"Special Siblings –Growing Up With
Someone With A Disability"

- **Experience**

    Others – Mary McHugh

    Acknowledging and dealing with feelings in adolescence and adulthood

    Guilt
    Anger
    Embarrassment
    Grief

Experience

   Others – Mary McHugh

      Acknowledgement of needing help

      Ways to find help

      Talking to others

- Experience

  Marianne's story

  She is 52, John is 55

  Cognitively delayed

  8 yrs old; teen years

  Mother's death; father's death

  No one to assist

- **Experience**
  - Marianne's Story
  - Lessons learned
  - Spend time

■ Experience

Marianne's Story

Lessons learned

Spend time

Inclusion in discussions

■ Experience

Marianne's Story

Lessons learned

Spend time

Inclusion in discussions

Earlier transitions

- Experience
  - Marianne's Story
    - Lessons learned
      - Spend time
      - Inclusion in discussions
      - Earlier transitions

Resources for empowerment

The Normal One – Life With a Difficult or Damaged Sibling,
Jeanne Safer PhD

Special Siblings – Growing Up With Someone With A Disability,
Mary McHugh

Coping With A Physically Challenged Brother or Sister, Linda
Lee Ratto Med

Sibshops – Workshops for Siblings of Children With Special
Needs, D.J. Meyer, P.F. Vadasy

■ Resources for empowerment

Web Articles by Jodie Dawson

www.schwablearning.org/articles

www.thearc.org/faqs/qa-siblings.html

Google "Don Meyer" to find information on Sibling Support Project