

Parent and Therapist Perceptions of Sibling Inclusion in Early Intervention

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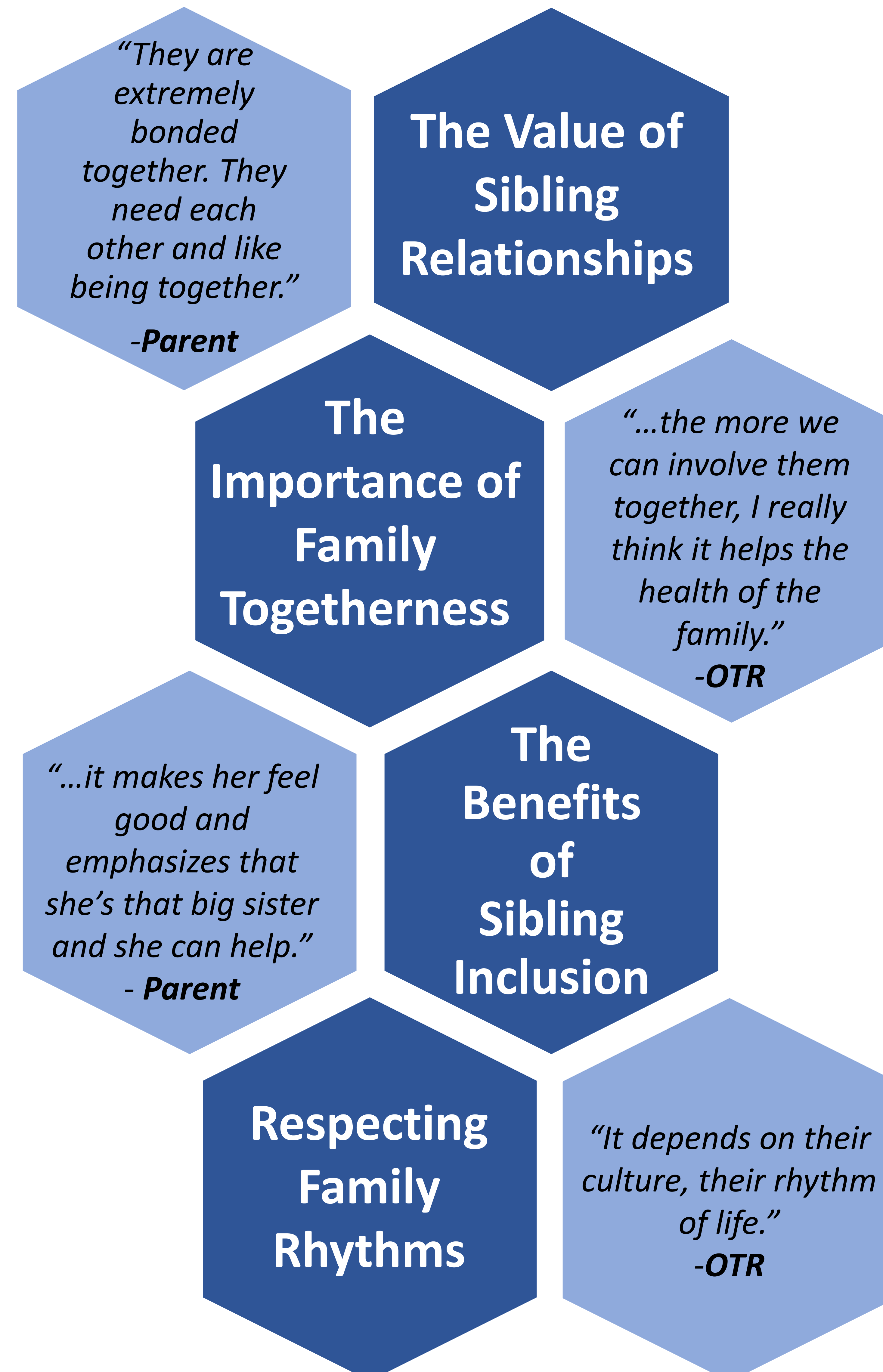


Background

Findings

Discussion

- In Early Intervention (EI), emphasis is placed on embedding family-centered services within a child's natural environments and routines.¹
- Siblings are a part of natural family routines, can support development of their brother or sister with a disability, and are curious about the EI services being provided, but are neglected in the literature surrounding family-centered EI services.^{2,3}
- There is little dialogue surrounding parent and occupational therapy practitioner perspectives surrounding sibling inclusion in EI.



- All participants reflected on the significance of sibling relationships and family togetherness in daily routine, expanding on outcomes from previous research.^{4,5,6}
- Not all parent participants agreed that sibling inclusion in EI was beneficial.
- OTRs valued inclusion of siblings despite barriers, as they felt it accurately prepared families to cope with the natural stressors of everyday life.
- OTRs recognized the need to honor individual family preferences regarding sibling inclusion in EI.

Research Aim

To explore parent and occupational therapy practitioner perceptions of sibling inclusion in family-centered EI.

Methods

Design: Qualitative descriptive

Participants: Three parents from families of children aged 0-4 who have received EI services within the past 3 years; Two registered occupational therapists (OTRs) practicing in EI

Data Collection: Semi-structured phone interviews

Data Analysis: Thematic coding and analysis

OT Implications

- Consideration of siblings in defining family-centered practices.
- OTRs should explicitly discuss benefits and challenges of sibling inclusion in EI services, but should ultimately respect unique preferences of families.

References

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