

10th April is National

# Siblings Day!

Celebrating siblings who have a disabled brother or sister

## Tips for parents

At Sibs, we know what a valuable role siblings play in the lives of their disabled brothers and sisters, how unique their relationship can be and how they need to be recognised and celebrated in their own right too.

We know that it can be difficult for parents to juggle the needs of their children, and parents tell us that sometimes siblings' needs can get overlooked. National Siblings Day is a brilliant opportunity to show your sibling child how much you value them.



**Sibs**

For brothers and sisters  
of disabled children and adults

#ItsASiblingThing  
#NationalSiblingsDay2024

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**Here are a few ideas of how you can use the day to help young siblings:**



**Tell your sibling child about National Siblings Day!** They may see you supporting disability awareness days throughout the year – let them know that today you are celebrating their special day.

**Show your sibling child our YoungSibs webpages at [www.sibs.org.uk/youngsibs](http://www.sibs.org.uk/youngsibs)** It will help them to know they aren't alone – they are part of our 2 million strong sibling community!



**Check out our resources included in this download pack – including colouring, writing and drawing sheets for young siblings.** Show off their art work on your fridge – or send it in to Sibs to add to our online gallery!

**Put your sibling child first on National Siblings Day!** Siblings often have to wait until their brother or sister has their needs met first. Tell your disabled child that they will need to wait until your sibling child has everything they need first – even if your disabled child does not understand this, your sibling child will and will feel good about coming first.



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**Here are a few ideas of how you can use the day to help young siblings:**



**Find a way of celebrating the day, however small.** Perhaps let your sibling child decide what you have for dinner or what activity you will all do today. Quite often, siblings don't get to choose – let them choose today!

**Share with your sibling what you love about them** or get out some old photos or videos/DVDs and talk about those special things they did as a young child. They will feel cherished by your memories and attention.



**Tell your child about something you have learnt from him or her.** For example, how to play a new game or use a tablet, or how to be creative. By telling children that you have learnt something from them they feel valued and appreciated. 'This is something I have learnt from you'.

**Thank your sibling child for something they have done.** Perhaps it was helping their brother or sister when they were unwell, or helping you to get jobs done. Saying thank you even after the event has passed shows siblings you have noticed the uniquely important role they play in your family.

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## If you have a bit more time, try this!

Many siblings say that others don't know what it is like to live with a disabled brother or sister. Tell your sibling child that you want understand this better.

Ask them to write a page about being a sibling and to include these:



The things they like about being a sibling



The things they find hard



The things that other people do which help them as a sibling



The things they wish other people would do to help them



How they feel about their brother or sister

When this is finished thank them for helping you to understand their lives more clearly. See if there are any practical solutions to any of the things they have written about.

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