

Parenting Tips
from
6a Penrith Place
BALGA WA 6061
Phone: 9440 0011
Opening times : Monday to Friday 12 PM to 4 PM

Sibling Rivalry

Children who are close in age often compete with each other for parental recognition. Competition is shown through constant fighting, criticising and telling tales; it can be destructive to family harmony. Competitive siblings generally display different personalities and interests and excel in different areas. Excessive sibling rivalry is a sign of discouragement-children adopt certain behaviours to show that they can be better, or get more attention, than a sibling.

Bright Ideas

- Accept children's uniqueness and value their differences. Help children to understand that they can all achieve in their own ways and show them how they can improve in their particular areas of interest or ability.
- Encourage children to take an interest in each other's activities.
- Ensure that acceptance of children is not conditional upon success. Children must feel worthwhile even when they are having difficulties.
- Emphasise children's effort, improvement and enjoyment in activities rather than praise them for good results.
- Stay out of children's disputes. Children often argue to involve their parents when they have disagreements. Avoid apportioning blame as this often reinforces the notion that one child may be favoured over another.
- Have fun together engage in games and activities that foster co-operation.

Three ways to promote rivalry between children.

- Constantly praise one and criticise the others.
- Interfere in their disputes.
- Compare one child with another.

We invite you to visit our Centre to 'check out' the wide range of information that we have available for you to browse or borrow