

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SAME-SEX TWINS
AND SIBLING PAIRS
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DATE: 1988

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to research twin relationships as twins often report that their twin is a more important person to them than either of their parents.

METHOD: Participants were obtained through NOMOTC, and consisted of 15-25-year-old twins and sibling pairs who were no more than 20 months apart. Subjects were predominantly white females. The sample consisted of 44 identical twins, 18 fraternal sets and 28 sibling pairs close-in-age.

1. When they are at their worst, fraternal twins love and cherish themselves more than the identicals or sibling pairs.
2. Fraternal must accept considerable differences between themselves and their twin, while maintaining an unusually high level of closeness. It may be this lifetime of experience with their twin that allows them to tolerate "differentness" in themselves better than the other two groups.
3. Affiliation between twins is significantly greater than between siblings close-in-age.
4. Twins (especially identical twins) may not need to separate emotionally from their parents since their twin is meeting their emotional needs more than their parents.
5. Both identical and fraternal twins do not react by going out on their own when the going gets rough. They don't leave the conflict. Instead, they continue to connect and trust one another.
6. In being asked to separate from one another, twins are being asked to let go of a trusting relationship that is remarkably satisfying and stable.
7. The tasks of identicals separating from their twin can be compared to siblings close-in-age separating from their parents.
8. Siblings close-in-age may be better able than twins to leave their relationship with their sibling when conflict can't be resolved because of their lower level of emotional investment.
9. Distinct advantages for twins that siblings don't enjoy:
 - A. Twins have more closeness and stability within their relationship.
 - B. Twins have an intense satisfaction regarding their state of affairs (especially identical twins.)
 - C. Fraternal seemed better able to tolerate "differentness" while maintaining closeness with their twin.
 - D. Twins, especially identicals, do not need to separate emotionally from their parents.

CONCLUSION:

Same-sex twin relationships are significantly different than same-sex sibling relationships. Identicals and fraternal twins differ slightly from one another in how they work out their interpersonal relationships. Grouped together as twins, identicals and fraternal are more closely connected and less autonomous than siblings close-in-age.

METHOD: Participants were obtained through NOMOTC, and consisted of 12-25-year-old twins and sibling pairs who were no more than 30 months apart. Subjects were predominantly white females. The sample consisted of 44 identical twins, 18 fraternal sets and 38 sibling pairs close-in-age.

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