

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLING STRUCTURE AND STRESS COPING BEHAVIORS, SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS OF CHILDREN. Hyun, O. K., Lee, W.J. & Lee, H.J. Department of Consumer, Child, and Family Studies, Inha University, Incheon 402-751, Korea.

Sibling relationship influences on social adjustments of children. Children experience cooperation, competition, and conflict in interaction with their siblings. They also learn from their siblings how to understand others and cope with stressful events. The purpose of this study was to explore positive coping behaviors with stresses and social adjustments of children as they relate to children's gender, grades, and sibling structure. The subjects for this study were 657 children who were selected from the fourth, sixth, and eighth graders of seven schools in Incheon area, evenly divided by their gender. The structured questionnaires were used to examine stress coping behaviors and social adjustments. Stress Coping Behavior Rating Scale (SCBRS), which was refined by factor analysis, and Social Adjustment Rating Scale (SARS) were used. The major findings were as follows:

1. Girls coped better with stresses in friendship matters than boys did. Girls also had more responsiveness and reality in their social adjustments than boys did.
2. The older, the better coped with stresses, while the older, the less adjusted socially.
3. Children who had elder sibling coped better with stresses in family relationship and school matters than children who had no elder sibling. Children who had elder sibling were also adjusted better to family relationship and had more responsiveness & reality than their counterparts.
4. Boys who had elder sister better coped with stresses, while girls who had no elder sister less coped with stresses. Also, children who had elder brother tended to cope well with their stresses and to be adjusted well.
5. Children who had younger sibling were adjusted better to family relationship than those who had no younger sibling. Children who had younger brother had more positive coping behaviors with stresses than their counterparts did.
6. The results showed the positive correlation between children's stress coping behaviors and their social adjustments.