



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1999, 10th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 17th, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Specific Worries of Children with Siblings who have Special Needs: A Comparison between Down Syndrome and Typical Development

Laura M. Holsen

Illinois Wesleyan University

Linda Kunce, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Laura M. Holsen and Linda Kunce, Faculty Advisor, "Specific Worries of Children with Siblings who have Special Needs: A Comparison between Down Syndrome and Typical Development" (April 17, 1999). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 12.

<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1999/posters2/12>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentation 16

**SPECIFIC WORRIES OF CHILDREN WITH SIBLINGS WHO HAVE
SPECIAL NEEDS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN DOWN SYNDROME
AND TYPICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Laura M. Holsen and Dr. Linda Kunce *

Department of Psychology, Illinois Wesleyan University

In this exploratory study, 12 children with siblings with Down syndrome and 12 children with typically developing siblings were interviewed about general anxiety and specific worries concerning their sibling. Parents completed parallel measures regarding the child participant's anxieties as well as a general measure of child behavior. Data were analyzed to determine whether siblings of children with Down syndrome have more specific worries and heightened general anxiety as compared to controls. Differences between siblings as a function of age and gender were also investigated. Implications of the study include validity testing of the sibling worries measure and clinical evaluation of the children's use of support systems and need for relevant information about their siblings.