

Public Abstract

First Name:Anna

Middle Name:Kristina

Last Name:Lindell

Adviser's First Name:Nicole

Adviser's Last Name:Campione-Barr

Co-Adviser's First Name:

Co-Adviser's Last Name:

Graduation Term:SP 2013

Department:Psychology

Degree:MA

Title:Sibling Conflict and Relationship Quality During the Transition to Emerging Adulthood

In recent years, family researchers have acknowledged the importance of sibling relationships across the lifespan, but there has been little investigation of how this relationship functions during the transition from high school to college. Since the college years are often one of the first times that siblings no longer live together year-round, it seemed likely that their relationship would experience some changes during this transition. Therefore, the present one-year longitudinal study recruited first- and second-born siblings from 48 families to examine how sibling conflict and relationship quality change or stay the same during the year that first-born children move away to college, and how these important aspects of the sibling relationship are related to one another during this developmental period. Our findings suggest that during first-born children's transition from high school to college, the sibling relationship continues to function in many of the same ways that are typical during the adolescent years, but that there are important links between sibling conflict and relationship quality through this transition.