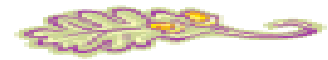




Colorado Adoption Project News



What's the fighting all about?

Brothers and sisters fight. It's a fact of life and one that we've all been involved with. But why do they fight, and about what? Freud hypothesized that siblings fight in a rivalry over parental love. This hypothesis is challenged in this study published in the *Journal of Social Development*

common method of ending sibling fights. Constructive outcomes were the least common.



For this study 108 sibling pairs from the CAP project (average ages 11.1 and 8.2 years) were interviewed using a semi-structured interview format. Researchers then used this data to try and answer several questions. Among them were: how do sibling's fights typically begin and end, and what specific issues do siblings fight about?

Both older and younger sibs cited sharing personal possessions as the top reason for fighting. This may be linked to children's developing sense of self, social comparison and positive justice as they deal with ownership and fairness. Other top cited reasons for fighting were physical aggression and general irritating behavior. Rivalry for parental love and attention was the least cited reason for fighting for both older and younger siblings. In this sample of the population, brothers and sisters fight over possessions rather than parental love.

The results showed that older and younger siblings are more likely to cite the other child as the initiator of the fight rather than themselves. Both older and younger siblings reported that the older sibling wins the fights or that neither/both win. We hypothesized that fights might end with older siblings resolving the arguments in a more active and constructive manner as they grow older. Contrary to this hypothesis, parental intervention was by far the most

[McGuire, S., Manke, B., Eftekhari, A., & Dunn, J. (2000). Children's perceptions of sibling conflict during middle childhood: Issues and sibling (dis)similarity. *Social Development*, 9, 173-190.]

Interview Schedule

INTERVIEW	TIME
Year 16 battery	4-5 hrs
Year 17 interview	2-3 hrs
Year 18-20 telephone interview	1.5 hrs
Year 21 battery	5-7 hrs
Year 22-30 phone interview	45 mins

CAP FACTS

- To date 179 journal articles and abstracts have been published using data from the CAP project.
- 442 families are still actively participating in the CAP project, over 90% of the original number enrolled

Human genome project accelerates



The Human Genome Project (HGP) began in 1990 with a goal of sequencing the human genome by 2005. Thanks to technological advances, however, the expected completion date has been moved to 2003. Already, a working draft of the entire sequence has been made available to the public.

was believed that humans were made up of over 100,000 genes. However, the initial results of this project show that humans have about 35,000 genes, only twice as many as those of a tiny transparent worm. Of those 35,000, scientists know the function of less than half of them.

genes are responsible for what human traits and behaviors. The HGP has provided us with a basic map, the next step is to begin deciphering what all the genes do and how they interact with one another to create a unique human being.

A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA. Originally it

That's where the CAP project comes in. We are one of several large research projects attempting to find what

If you are interested in learning more about the HGP visit <http://www.ornl.gov/hgmis>.

