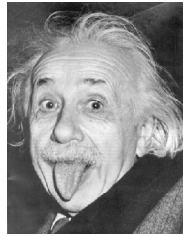


ADOPTING SIBLINGS: OUR THEORY OF RELATIVITY



Albert Einstein had his theory of relativity and COBYS Family Services has ours. Ours says it's better to keep relatives together: Children adopted with their brothers and sisters have a greater chance to thrive than those who are separated from their siblings. As we celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month this November, please consider the advantages of keeping siblings together. And whether God is calling you to care for children in need.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING. . .

- By the time children are 11, they devote 33% of their free time to their siblings—more time than they spend with friends, parents, teachers, or even by themselves. —*TIME*, July 10, 2006
- Brothers and sisters are as close as hands and feet. —Vietnamese Proverb
- Siblings are the living remnant of our past, a buffer against the loss of our own history, the deepest, oldest memories of us as we were in the beginning. —*Networker*, January/February 1994
- For children entering [foster] care, being with siblings can enhance their sense of safety and well-being. They are not burdened with wondering where their siblings are and whether or not they are safe. Siblings in the same home can provide natural support to each other and some sense of stability and belonging. —*Child Welfare Information Gateway*, 2006
- The majority of children in out-of-home care have siblings—between 87% and 90%—yet agencies succeed at keeping siblings together as little as 25% of the time. —Timberlake and Hamlin, *Child Welfare*



WE CAN RELATE. . .



COBYS Family Services understands the need to keep sibling groups together. In our 13 years of adoption ministry, more than half of all children adopted through COBYS have been adopted with one or more of their siblings. We have finalized adoptions for sibling groups of two all the way up to six children!

Of 319 total COBYS adoptions, 167 children (52 percent), representing 75 sibling groups, were adopted with brothers and sisters. That trend continues, as we anticipate the adoption of four more sibling groups by year's end.

But we can't do it without committed Christian families. We have an ongoing need for resource parents who are willing to adopt sibling groups of two, three, even four children. Adopting a sibling group may sound scary to parents, but being separated from brothers and sisters is far scarier for children.

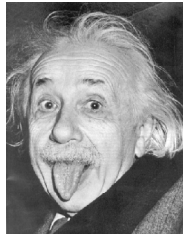
It doesn't take a rocket scientist to comprehend our theory of relativity. It does take sensitivity to hear God's call to care for children and courage to respond to that call. Can you relate?

COBYS Family Services is a Christian agency serving children and families in south central Pennsylvania. COBYS offers free monthly informational meetings in Berks and Lancaster Counties to help families determine if foster care or adoption—of one child or many—is right for them. To learn more about caring for kids, please contact us at:

COBYS Family Services
1417 Oregon Road
Leola, PA 17540
800-452-6517
E-mail: careforkids@cobys.org
www.cobys.org



ADOPTING SIBLINGS: OUR THEORY OF RELATIVITY



Albert Einstein had his theory of relativity and COBYS Family Services has ours. Ours says it's better to keep relatives together: Children adopted with their brothers and sisters have a greater chance to thrive than those who are separated from their siblings. As we celebrate National Adoption Awareness Month this November, please consider the advantages of keeping siblings together. And whether God is calling you to care for children in need.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING. . .

- By the time children are 11, they devote 33% of their free time to their siblings—more time than they spend with friends, parents, teachers, or even by themselves. —*TIME*, July 10, 2006
- Brothers and sisters are as close as hands and feet. —Vietnamese Proverb
- Siblings are the living remnant of our past, a buffer against the loss of our own history, the deepest, oldest memories of us as we were in the beginning. —*Networker*, January/February 1994
- For children entering [foster] care, being with siblings can enhance their sense of safety and well-being. They are not burdened with wondering where their siblings are and whether or not they are safe. Siblings in the same home can provide natural support to each other and some sense of stability and belonging. —*Child Welfare Information Gateway*, 2006
- The majority of children in out-of-home care have siblings—between 87% and 90%—yet agencies succeed at keeping siblings together as little as 25% of the time. —Timberlake and Hamlin, *Child Welfare*



WE CAN RELATE. . .



COBYS Family Services understands the need to keep sibling groups together. In our 13 years of adoption ministry, more than half of all children adopted through COBYS have been adopted with one or more of their siblings. We have finalized adoptions for sibling groups of two all the way up to six children!

Of 319 total COBYS adoptions, 167 children (52 percent), representing 75 sibling groups, were adopted with brothers and sisters. That trend continues, as we anticipate the adoption of four more sibling groups by year's end.

But we can't do it without committed Christian families. We have an ongoing need for resource parents who are willing to adopt sibling groups of two, three, even four children. Adopting a sibling group may sound scary to parents, but being separated from brothers and sisters is far scarier for children.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to comprehend our theory of relativity. It does take sensitivity to hear God's call to care for children and courage to respond to that call. Can you relate?

COBYS Family Services is a Christian agency serving children and families in south central Pennsylvania. COBYS offers free monthly informational meetings in Berks and Lancaster Counties to help families determine if foster care or adoption—of one child or many—is right for them. To learn more about caring for kids, please contact us at:

COBYS Family Services
1417 Oregon Road
Leola, PA 17540
800-452-6517
E-mail: careforkids@cobys.org
www.cobys.org

