

My Brother Has Hemophilia



**A Manual for Children
and Their Families About
Sibling Rivalry in Families
Coping With Hemophilia**

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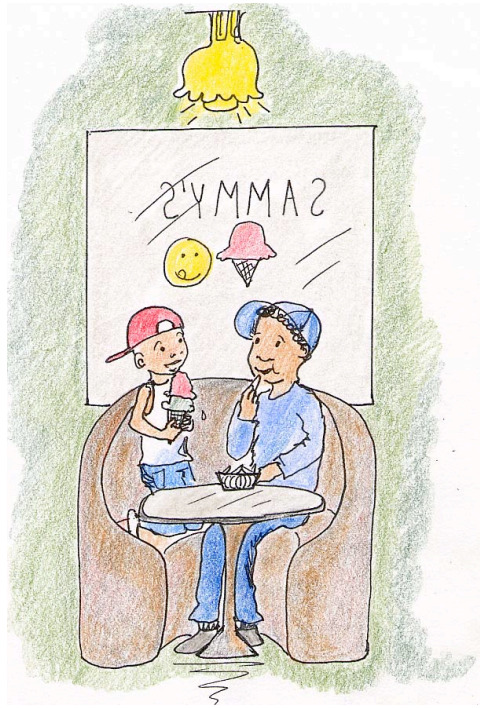
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- A NOTE TO PARENTS -

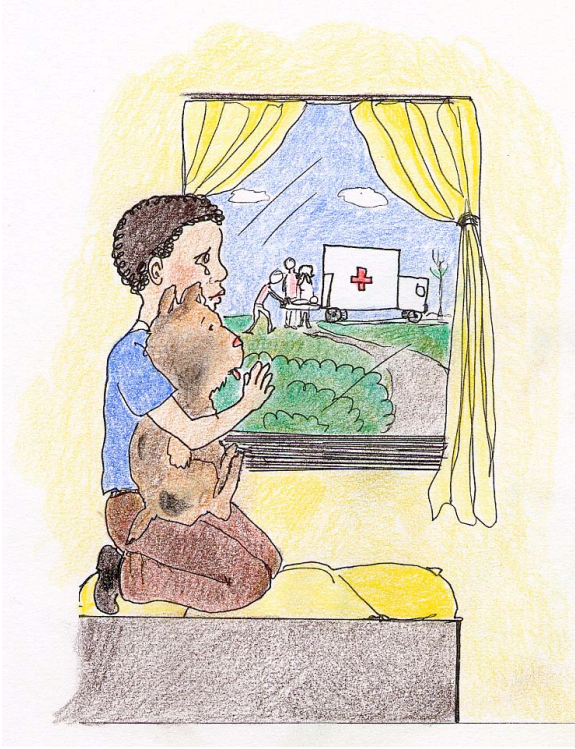
Sibling rivalry is a universal phenomenon. Regardless of individual situations, older children can be resentful of the “new addition.” When a family is learning to live with a child who has a chronic illness – be it cancer, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, hemophilia – the unaffected children may not get the same attention they had previously enjoyed, and certainly may not receive the same attention as the child who has the problem. Too often these siblings feel rejected by their parents and grandparents. The normal jealousy they experience is often not expressed, because the older children are embarrassed by their feelings, and know that this behavior will be looked upon as “bad.” In this manual we hope to explore the issue of sibling rivalry as it may manifest itself in families coping with hemophilia. By giving voice to the unspoken negative feelings and confusion experienced by siblings, and by simple explanations of the problems associated with hemophilia, it is hoped that some of these issues may become more manageable for affected families.



I have a little brother. Everyone says he looks like me. We have the same color hair. We have the same color eyes. We both like French fries and chocolate ice cream. But, there's one very big difference – my brother has hemophilia.



Yo tengo un hermanito menor. Todo el mundo dice que se parece a mí. Tenemos el mismo color de pelo y de ojos. A los dos nos gustan las papas fritas y el helado de chocolate. Pero hay una diferencia muy grande – mi hermano padece de hemofilia.



I didn't understand what having hemophilia means.

I know that my brother gets a lot of bruises – sometimes his legs look purple, even though he doesn't play nearly as hard as I do.

Sometimes, if we're fooling around and he falls – or

if I hit him by accident or if I push him too hard – his knee or elbow gets very swollen and he cries a lot.

Then he has to go to the hospital – even in the middle of a TV show or at suppertime.

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