

DON MEYER

Speaker, Author, and Creator of Innovative Programs for Families of People with Special Needs



(Sibshop training, Tokyo)

As the award-winning director of the Sibling Support Project, speaker, author, and creator of the Sibshop model, Don Meyer has presented on issues facing families of people with special needs all over the world. Here are a few of the accomplishments that make him a sought-after speaker to family and professional audiences:

- Don created Sibshops, which provide peer support and information to thousands of young brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs.
- He is a best-selling author and editor of seven books on families of people with special needs.
- His trainings on the Sibshop model have resulted in the creation of over 350 Sibshops throughout the United States as well as Argentina, Canada, the Czech Republic, Iceland, England, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, and Turkey.
- He has presented more than 300 lively, highly rated workshops on the concerns of siblings, fathers, and grandparents of children with special needs to professional and family audiences in every state as well as Canada, Iceland, Ireland, England, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Israel, New Zealand, Turkey, and Japan.
- Don was a founder of the University of Washington's SEFAM (Supporting Extended Family Members) program, which pioneered services for fathers, siblings, and grandparents of children with special needs.
- Don created SibTeen, Sib20, and SibNet, the Internet's first and largest online groups for young and adult siblings of people with disabilities, reaching over 3000 siblings every day.

As I wrote Riding the Bus with My Sister, I learned of The Sibling Support Project's important work and met the very energetic and caring Don Meyer. Whether it's helping local communities start Sibshops, connecting young and adult sibs with their peers on SibKids and SibNet, conducting wonderful workshops for parents and providers, or creating engaging books for sibs and families, Don's Sibling Support Project is the go-to group for all things sibling. --Rachel Simon, author, sister

Don's books include:

- Sibshops: Workshops for Brothers and Sisters Of Children With Special Needs (Brookes Publishing). This book, the official Sibshop curriculum, guides readers as they plan, budget, promote, and run a successful Sibshop.
- Uncommon Fathers: Reflections on Raising a Child With Special Needs (Woodbine House). A compelling collection of 19 essays by fathers who were asked to reflect and write about the life-altering experience having a child with a disability.
- Living With a Brother or Sister with Special Needs: A Book for Sibs (University of Washington Press). Written for readers ten and older, this book provides young sibs with kid-friendly information about a wide range of disabilities and acknowledgement of the often-ambivalent feelings they might have about life as a sib.
- Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up With A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs (Woodbine House). Essays from 45 siblings—ages 4 to 18--about their experience as the brother or sister of someone who has a disability.
- The Sibling Slam Book: What It Is Really Like To Have a Brother or Sister with Special Needs (Woodbine House). The Sibling Slam Book features the candid, funny, and insightful observations of 80 teen sibs from five countries.
- Thicker Than Water: Essays by Adult Siblings of People with Disabilities (Woodbine House).
- The Sibling Survival Guide: Indispensible Information for Brothers and Sisters of Adults with Disabilities (Woodbine House)

Journalists frequently seek out Don as they prepare articles on families of children with special needs. Here's a partial list of media outlets, newspapers, and professional journals that have featured Don and his work with families. You can find links to articles, etc. [here](#).

- ABC News' 20/20, Nightline, and World News Tonight
- Brazelton on Parenting
- Exceptional Parent
- Good Housekeeping
- JASH
- Journal of the Society of Pediatric Nurses
- Minneapolis Star-Tribune
- National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation
- Parents Magazine
- PBS' A Place of Our Own
- Reader's Digest
- School Social Work Journal
- Sesame Street Parents Magazine
- The American Academy of Pediatrics News
- The Boston Globe
- The British Journal of Special Education
- The Chicago Tribune
- The NASP (National Association for School Psychologists) Communiqué
- The New York Times
- The Seattle Times
- The Washington Post
- The Washington Times
- United Press International
- WFYI's Sound Medicine
- The Journal of Pediatric Psychology

Here are a few comments about Don's workshops from family members and service providers:

Hearing about siblings' experiences was extremely useful, but Don's enthusiasm rekindled and touched the part of me that wanted to make things possible. An amazing weekend--so thought provoking, great company, such honesty from all ages—it took you to all sorts of places emotionally. Don is a truly amazing guy, so motivating, easy to listen too—the time just flew.

A very worthwhile weekend! The way Don presents is amazing and the time passed very quickly. After listening to Don and the other siblings, I found a lot of my feelings from my childhood resurface as if it were yesterday, but I was able to put things into a much better perspective. Support for siblings is a topic very close to my heart—it's great to see that it is happening and there will be even more.

What a great workshop. Don you have a great gift with children and as a speaker. It is exciting that you put so much energy into siblings. You have inspired me to set up something for our sibs.

I've felt understanding, happiness, sadness, and grief all in one day. Thank you for so much awareness! I've left happy!



Don is an amazing speaker—could listen to him all day.

Lots of food for thought. Most I will be able use as a parent and support person. Thank you for reminding us we have grandparents too!

Great clarity, terrific humor. Passion for topic and compassion for people. Respectful handling of audience's questions. Great anecdotes interspersed with heaps of valuable information. And the sibling panel was excellent and their stories quite moving.

It was great meeting you and to learn first hand about your work and Sibshops which I found extremely interesting. The professionalism of your presentation made the two days fly--an opinion I know was shared by all who attended. I particularly noted you validated people's pain in such a way that it gave them strength--they were definitely not left hanging.

Don is one of the most organized presenters you could ever ask for! This is a tremendous support system for families.

Thank you for the opportunity to enhance my understanding and with sincerity, humor, and genuine care and feeling. There was a wonderful sense of group care and sharing. Young folks shared their feelings with genuineness and compassion. • I didn't realize I was in for such a "rich" day.

I spent chunks of the day with a lump in my throat. Having to go home and relay the information to my husband and the grandparents was daunting—so thanks for the notes! They were marvelous.

Absolutely inspiring presentation—I want to become a Sibshop facilitator!

Learn more about our workshops, keynotes, and trainings: info@siblingsupport.org 206-297-6368