

This thesis explores the experience and support needs of siblings with a brother or sister with intellectual disability. Through review of what is a quite limited literature and from original qualitative research, involving interviews with siblings, the author examines their social reality, focusing especially on their relationships with their disabled brother or sister and with the wider society. Particular attention is given to identifying to what extent the siblings' lives are influenced by the intellectual disability of their brother or sister. Drawing on the findings of this work, the thesis considers how siblings with intellectually disabled brothers or sisters might get systematic support through social work. The research generates several hypotheses for further research.