

In my rigorous thesis I focus at describing sibling relationship in middle childhood. I have an aim of finding those specific themes that emerge in this relationship in middle childhood. I search for answers in literature as well as in qualitative research. The purpose of this research is to make an insight into the ways this relationship is experienced by eight to ten-year-old children. On the basis of outcomes of this research I then focus on a detailed analysis of two crucial themes, namely the playing activities and conflict situations of children. In the analysis of these themes a concrete way is reflected of experiencing the sibling relationship in childhood. I provide information on how children in middle childhood perceive and reflect their siblings, the sibling relationship, and themselves in this relationship. This thesis captures both common as well as different aspects of this relationship with children of the same and opposite sex; it examines this relationship through the eyes of children in two basic sibling positions, and it highlights a picture of this relationship typical for various sibling constellations. Thanks to findings of several authors who have dealt with sibling relationships, the outcomes of my research are explained in connection to dynamic aspects of this relationship such as ambivalence, rivalry, identification, and deidentification.