

## **Abstract**

Sibling relationships represent the first and the longest contact with contemporaries in our lives, changing with the age of siblings and depending on a number of circumstances. At the same time it is the second strongest emotional bond, right after the bond to one's parents. One of the circumstances, influencing the sibling relationship essentially and permanently, is an impairment of one of the siblings, which may also be an autism spectrum disorder. This developmental disorder affects the psychological development of individual in three main fields, the so-called autistic triad – in the fields of communication, social interaction and imagination, i.e. it effects the sibling relationship as well. The sibling of the child with an autism spectrum disorder may then develop feelings as jealousy, guilt, fear, wrong, anger, grief, excess responsibility, shame or loneliness. There are not negative emotions only, the sibling may be proud of the child with the autism spectrum disorder, he/she may feel love and sympathy and he/she may feel the need to protect the impaired sibling, thus learning important character traits as patience or tolerance.