

2.1 Scan the text below and underline these words:

rewarding sibling relate accommodating adolescence interaction nurture

Study links early friendships with high-quality sibling relationships

Children who experience a rewarding friendship before the birth of a sibling are likely to have a better relationship with that brother or sister that endures throughout their childhood, said Laurie Kramer in a University of Illinois study published in December's Journal of Family Psychology.

'When early friendships are successful, young children get the chance to master sophisticated social and emotional skills, even more than they do with a parent. When parents relate to a child, they do a lot of the work, figuring out what the child needs and then accommodating those needs,' says Kramer. However, this is not usually the case when two children are interacting.

The research showed that the benefits of early friends are long-lasting. Children who had a positive relationship with a best friend before the birth of a sibling ultimately had a good relationship with their sibling that lasted throughout adolescence, Kramer said. And children who as preschoolers were able to coordinate play with a friend, manage conflicts, and keep an interaction positive in tone were most likely as teenagers to avoid the negative sibling interaction that can sometimes launch children on a path of anti-social behavior, she added. 'From birth, parents can nurture and help develop these social competencies (or skills) by making eye contact with their babies, offering toys and playing with them,' she said.

2.2 Read the text and match the words you have underlined to the following definitions.

- 1 help someone/something develop and grow
- 2 agreeing to a demand
- 3 brother or sister
- 4 respond to somebody
- 5 the stage between childhood and adulthood
- 6 giving a lot of pleasure
- 7 communication



Vocabulary note

Look for familiar words in longer words to work out their meaning, e.g. correlation (one thing is linked with another); interrelated (the relationship between two or more things). NB The prefix co- (correlation or cooperate) often means *with* or *together*. The prefix inter- (interact or intercity) often means *between*.

2.3 Read the text again and say whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F). Underline the part of the text that gave you your answer.

- 1 If young children have good friends then they will have a good relationship with their brother or sister.
- 2 Parents help their children develop more social and emotional skills than friends do.
- 3 Friends will give you what you want more often than your parents do.
- 4 Teenagers who fight with their brothers or sisters may behave in a way that is socially unacceptable.
- 5 If parents play with their children more then they will learn how to be more sociable.

1 Growing up

2.4 A lot of words connected with families and relationships can also be used in a different context. Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

- 1 The wolf is a member of the dog
- 2 The company decided to a new approach to staff recruitment.
- 3 The study found a strong between a lack of friends and sibling rivalry.
- 4 Whether you think the price of goods is high is to the amount of money you earn.
- 5 Studies have shown that stress in adulthood can be to an unhappy childhood.
- 6 Good teachers identify the talents of their students and them.
- 7 This evidence seems to with the findings from previous studies.
- 8 I am writing in to the job advertisement in yesterday's paper.

3.1 COMPOUND NOUNS Match the words in box A with the words in box B to make 10 compound nouns. You will need to use some words more than once.

A active family maternal sibling stable
extended immediate physical striking

B family instinct rivalry upbringing
gatherings resemblance role

adopt
conflict
family

nurture
related
relation

relationship
relative

Error warning

Note the following common errors: *I am writing in relation to/with your job advertisement.* NOT *in relation of...* *My relationship with my parents is very strong.* NOT *My relation with my parents...*

Vocabulary note

Note these collocations with the word *relationship*.
Verbs: **build** a relationship, **develop** a relationship, **establish** a relationship, **form** a relationship, **have** a relationship

Adjectives: a **close** relationship, a **long-standing** relationship, a **working** relationship, a **successful** relationship

Prepositions: a relationship **with** someone, a relationship **between** two things or people (NOT *relationship to someone*)

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Match these definitions.