

# OPTIMAL JOURNAL OF MIDWIFERY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Published by  
PT. Optimal Untuk Negeri

## PARENTING STYLE AND SIBLING RIVALRY AMONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AT AN ISLAMIC KINDERGARTEN IN PEKANBARU, INDONESIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

**Aminah Hidayati<sup>a</sup>, Ani Triana<sup>b\*</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Midwifery Professional Education Study Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universitas Hang Tuah  
Pekanbaru, Pekanbaru, Indonesia

<sup>b</sup>Midwifery Professional Education Study Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universitas Hang Tuah  
Pekanbaru, Pekanbaru, Indonesia (ORCID: 0000-0001-6332-9370)

\*Corresponding e-mail: anitriana@htp.ac.id

### ABSTRACT

*Background: Sibling rivalry is common among preschool-aged children and may be shaped by parenting practices, but evidence from kindergarten settings in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, remains limited. Objective: To determine the association between parenting styles and sibling rivalry among preschool children at an Islamic kindergarten in Pekanbaru, Indonesia. Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted from 3 to 26 May 2025 among 84 parents of enrolled children with at least one sibling, selected using total sampling. Parenting style and sibling rivalry were measured with two dichotomous (Yes/No) questionnaires adapted from Oktriani (2019) (20 and 15 items; Cronbach's alpha 0.929 and 0.948) and categorized as at-risk (permissive/authoritarian) or non-at-risk (democratic) parenting based on total-score cut-offs. Data were analyzed using Pearson Chi-Square with Yates' continuity correction (SPSS v.30), with odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Results: At-risk parenting was reported by 55 parents (65.5%), and sibling rivalry was identified in 46 children (54.8%). A significant association was found (corrected chi-square = 4.080,  $p = 0.043$ ; Fisher's exact  $p = 0.037$ ); children exposed to at-risk parenting had 2.864 times the odds of sibling rivalry compared with democratic parenting (95% CI: 1.130-7.256). A sensitivity analysis adjusting for an approximate sibling age gap did not materially change this association (adjusted OR = 2.70; 95% CI: 1.04-7.04). Conclusion: Parenting style is associated with sibling rivalry among preschool children. Consistent guidance, emotional support, and equitable attention may help reduce sibling conflict during the preschool period.*

*Keywords: Cross-sectional studies; Parenting style; Preschool children; Sibling relations; Sibling rivalry*

*Aminah Hidayati & Ani Triana., Parenting Style And Sibling Rivalry....*

13



## INTRODUCTION

Sibling rivalry refers to competition, jealousy, and conflict between siblings, commonly arising from children's efforts to obtain parental attention and affection. Such interactions may manifest as hostility, fighting, competition for resources, and attempts to secure parental recognition. The phenomenon is particularly relevant during early childhood because children's emotional regulation and social skills are still developing, and parents with more than one child therefore need to recognize the possibility of sibling rivalry and the factors that may contribute to its occurrence (Rimalia et al., 2022).

Two theoretical frameworks are commonly used to explain why family processes shape sibling behavior. Family systems theory holds that conflict and functioning in one family subsystem, such as the parent-child relationship, permeate and interact with other subsystems, including the sibling subsystem (Bowen, 1974). Social learning theory further proposes that children acquire behavioral patterns, including aggression and conflict responses, partly through observing and imitating models in their immediate environment, with the nurturance and consistency of the model influencing the strength of this learning (Bandura et al., 1961). Taken together, these frameworks suggest that parenting style may shape sibling rivalry both directly, by modeling conflict-resolution behavior, and indirectly, through its effect on the broader emotional climate of the family, a combined framework that has previously been used to derive hypotheses linking parenting style to sibling conflict (Liu & Rahman, 2022).

Parenting style represents the manner in which parents guide, discipline, communicate with, and respond to their children. Baumrind's (1971), (1991) classic typology, later widely applied in Indonesian family research under the terms authoritarian, permissive, and democratic (an equivalent of the authoritative style), remains the theoretical basis for classifying parenting practices in this line of research. Authoritarian parenting is characterized by high control and low warmth, permissive parenting by low control and high indulgence, and democratic parenting by a balance of consistent guidance and emotional responsiveness. Because authoritarian and permissive styles both depart from the consistent, responsive guidance associated with democratic parenting, this study followed the approach used in the source instrument (Oktriani, 2019) of grouping them together as an at-risk category, in contrast to the non-at-risk democratic category. This combined categorization is a simplification of Baumrind's original typology, and its implications are discussed further under Limitations.

A recent meta-analysis of 16 studies involving more than 14,000 participants found that authoritative (democratic) parenting was consistently associated with fewer sibling conflicts, whereas authoritarian, neglectful, indulgent, and inconsistent parenting styles were positively associated with sibling conflicts, with the association for inconsistent parenting being particularly pronounced in Asian samples (Liu & Rahman, 2022). This body of evidence supports the conceptual basis for treating authoritarian and permissive



parenting as risk factors for sibling rivalry relative to democratic parenting, while also indicating that the strength of these associations can vary by cultural context and by the age of the children involved.

Beyond its association with sibling rivalry specifically, parenting style is also recognized as a key proximal family factor shaping preschool children's broader psychosocial development. A recent study of 504 preschool children in China found that authoritative parenting positively predicted children's social-emotional competence across domains including self-awareness, social cognition, and interpersonal skills, whereas permissive parenting predicted poorer outcomes on the same domains, with parent-child interaction quality partly mediating these effects (Wen et al., 2026). Similarly, family intimacy has been shown to support preschoolers' social-emotional competence indirectly through children's psychological resilience (Wang & Liu, 2025). These findings reinforce that the family environment, and parenting style in particular, is a developmentally significant context for preschool-aged children, supporting the relevance of examining parenting style in relation to sibling rivalry during this developmental period.

Within the Indonesian setting, several cross-sectional studies have reported a significant association between parenting style and sibling rivalry. Girsang (2024) reported a significant relationship among preschool children with a Chi-Square p-value of 0.002, and Surahmat et al. (2023) similarly found an association and emphasized the importance of parenting practices that correspond to children's developmental stages. Comparable associations have also been reported between parenting style and related family or child outcomes in other Indonesian samples, including differences in parenting style between single-child and multiple-child families (Alidosti et al., 2016), reinforcing the relevance of parenting style as a family-level determinant of child behavior in this population.

A preliminary contextual assessment conducted by the research team at YLPI Marpoyan Islamic Kindergarten indicated that behaviors consistent with sibling rivalry, such as hitting, taking toys, emotional instability, and tantrums, were observed by teachers in the school environment. Informal interviews with ten mothers further suggested variation in parenting styles and differing child responses following the birth of a younger sibling. This assessment is reported here only as contextual background that motivated the present study; it was not collected using the study's validated instruments and should not be interpreted as an estimate of the prevalence of sibling rivalry in this setting.

Beyond parenting style, other family-level studies conducted in Indonesia have examined a broader set of contributing factors for sibling rivalry among preschool children. A cross-sectional study among mothers in Lubuk Begalung, West Sumatra, reported that parental attitudes, parental favoritism, and the age gap between siblings were all significantly associated with sibling rivalry, suggesting that family characteristics beyond parenting style alone may play a role. A more recent cross-sectional study conducted in the Sangkrah area of Surakarta, Central Java, also reported a significant effect of parenting patterns on the incidence of sibling rivalry among children under five.



Internationally, birth order and family configuration have similarly been linked to children's psychosocial outcomes: a large population-based study in Japan found that birth order was associated with differences in behavioral difficulties, resilience, and prosocial behavior among school-aged children (Fukuya et al., 2021) lending further support to the relevance of examining sibling age gap alongside parenting style rather than treating parenting style as the sole family-level determinant of sibling rivalry.

Although prior Indonesian studies have established an association between parenting style and sibling rivalry, most have not quantified the magnitude of this association through an odds ratio, and few have examined whether readily available family characteristics, such as the age gap between the preschool child and the sibling, might account for part of the observed association. Evidence from preschool children in Pekanbaru specifically also remains limited. This study therefore aimed to determine the association between parenting styles and sibling rivalry among preschool children at an Islamic kindergarten in Pekanbaru, Indonesia, and to conduct a sensitivity analysis examining whether the sibling age gap influenced this association.

## **METHODS**

This study employed a quantitative analytic design with a cross-sectional approach to examine the association between parenting styles and sibling rivalry among preschool children. The study was conducted at TK Islam YLPI Marpoyan, Pekanbaru, Indonesia, during 3-26 May 2025.

Eligible participants were parents of children who were enrolled at TK Islam YLPI Marpoyan and who had at least one older or younger sibling. Each parent reported on the specific enrolled child and that child's sibling; parents whose enrolled child had no sibling were not eligible. A total of 84 parents met these criteria and were included using a total sampling technique, in which the entire eligible population was recruited as the study sample.

Parenting style and sibling rivalry were each measured using a dichotomous (Yes/No) questionnaire adapted from a previously validated instrument (Oktriani, 2019). The parenting style questionnaire consisted of 20 items covering communicative guidance, consistent discipline, autonomy-granting, and permissive behaviors; item-total correlations in the original validation ranged from 0.234 to 0.895, exceeding the critical  $r$ -table value of 0.444, and internal consistency was high (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.929$ ). The sibling rivalry questionnaire consisted of 15 items covering jealousy, competition for attention, and conflict behaviors between siblings; item-total correlations ranged from 0.695 to 0.967, and internal consistency was likewise high (Cronbach's  $\alpha = 0.948$ ).

Each parenting style item was scored 1 for an affirmative response, yielding a total score ranging from 1 to 20. Following the cut-offs established in the source instrument, a total score of 1-6 was classified as permissive, 7-13 as authoritarian, and 14-20 as



democratic; permissive and authoritarian classifications were combined into a single at-risk category, contrasted with the non-at-risk democratic category. Sibling rivalry total scores ranged from 1 to 15, with 1-7 classified as experiencing sibling rivalry and 8-15 as not experiencing sibling rivalry. Because this classification is based on the total raw score rather than on separate sub-scale scores for each parenting dimension, it does not distinguish which specific items a respondent endorsed; this scoring approach is inherited from the source instrument and is discussed further as a limitation.

Ethical principles were addressed through informed consent, confidentiality, and respondent anonymity. This study received ethical approval from the Research Ethics Committee of Universitas Hang Tuah Pekanbaru (Ethics Approval No. 254/KEPK/UHTP/V/2025).

Data analysis consisted of univariate and bivariate analyses performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 30. Because the association between parenting style and sibling rivalry was examined in a 2x2 contingency table, the Pearson Chi-Square test with Yates' continuity correction was used as the primary bivariate test, and Fisher's exact test was additionally computed as a robustness check, consistent with recommended practice for 2x2 contingency tables (Kim, 2017). The minimum expected cell count was 13.12, exceeding the conventional threshold of 5, indicating that the standard Chi-Square assumption was met. The odds ratio (OR) and 95% confidence interval (CI) were calculated to estimate the magnitude of the association. Reporting of the study design, sample, and statistical procedures in this manuscript follows the general principles of transparent reporting for observational studies (Elm et al., 2008).

Because the preschool child's age (recorded in whole years) and the sibling's age (recorded in 12-month bands) were available, an approximate sibling age gap in months was derived using the midpoint of each age band, and used to conduct a sensitivity analysis. This approximate age gap was entered together with parenting style category into a binary logistic regression predicting sibling rivalry, to evaluate whether the sibling age gap accounted for part of the association between parenting style and sibling rivalry. Because exact ages were recorded in categorical bands rather than in exact months, this age-gap variable carries measurement imprecision, and the sensitivity analysis should be interpreted as an exploratory robustness check rather than a definitive confounder-adjusted estimate.

## RESULTS

**Characteristics of Respondents.** A total of 84 respondents participated in the study.

Most parents were aged 36-40 years (41.7%), held a bachelor's degree (63.1%), and were not working (58.3%). Most respondents had two children (54.8%), the majority of preschool children were five years old (46.4%), and younger siblings were predominantly 25-36 months old (69.0%). Full characteristics are presented in Table 1.



**Table 1.** Characteristics of Research Respondents (n = 84)

| No | Variable              | Frequency (f) | Percentage (%) |
|----|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1  | Parent's age          |               |                |
|    | 25-30 years           | 18            | 21.4           |
|    | 31-35 years           | 31            | 36.9           |
|    | 36-40 years           | 35            | 41.7           |
| 2  | Education             |               |                |
|    | Junior high school    | 5             | 6.0            |
|    | Senior high school    | 26            | 31.0           |
|    | Bachelor's degree     | 53            | 63.1           |
| 3  | Occupation            |               |                |
|    | Civil servant         | 11            | 13.1           |
|    | Entrepreneur          | 24            | 28.6           |
|    | Not working           | 49            | 58.3           |
| 4  | Number of children    |               |                |
|    | 2 children            | 46            | 54.8           |
|    | 3 children            | 31            | 36.9           |
|    | 4 children            | 7             | 8.3            |
| 5  | Preschool child's age |               |                |
|    | 4 years               | 11            | 13.1           |
|    | 5 years               | 39            | 46.4           |
|    | 6 years               | 26            | 31.0           |
|    | 7 years               | 8             | 9.5            |
| 6  | Sibling's age         |               |                |
|    | 1-12 months           | 14            | 16.7           |
|    | 13-24 months          | 12            | 14.3           |
|    | 25-36 months          | 58            | 69.0           |

Source: Primary data, 2025.

The predominance of parents with higher education (63.1% held a bachelor's degree) and the relatively even distribution across occupational categories suggest that the sample was not concentrated in a single socioeconomic stratum, although these characteristics were examined descriptively only and were not tested as covariates of the main association in this study.

### Parenting Style and Sibling Rivalry.

Of the 84 parents, 55 (65.5%) applied an at-risk parenting style (permissive or authoritarian) and 29 (34.5%) applied a democratic parenting style. Sibling rivalry was identified in 46 children (54.8%), while 38 children (45.2%) did not experience sibling rivalry.



### Association Between Parenting Style and Sibling Rivalry.

Among children exposed to at-risk parenting, 35 (63.6%) experienced sibling rivalry, compared with 11 (37.9%) among children receiving democratic parenting. The continuity-corrected Pearson Chi-Square test showed a statistically significant association between parenting style and sibling rivalry (chi-square = 4.080, df = 1,  $p = 0.043$ ); the uncorrected Pearson Chi-Square was 5.065 ( $p = 0.024$ ), and Fisher's exact test yielded  $p = 0.037$ , consistent with the corrected result. The odds ratio was 2.864 (95% CI: 1.130-7.256), indicating that children exposed to at-risk parenting styles had 2.864 times the odds of experiencing sibling rivalry compared with children receiving democratic parenting.

**Table 2.** Association Between Parenting Style and Sibling Rivalry

| Parenting Style | Experienced Sibling Rivalry n (%) | Did Not Experience Sibling Rivalry n (%) | Total n (%) |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| At-risk         | 35 (63.6)                         | 20 (36.4)                                | 55 (100.0)  |
| Non-at-risk     | 11 (37.9)                         | 18 (62.1)                                | 29 (100.0)  |
| Total           | 46 (54.8)                         | 38 (45.2)                                | 84 (100.0)  |

Source: Primary data, 2025. Continuity-corrected chi-square = 4.080, df = 1,  $p = 0.043$ ; Fisher's exact  $p = 0.037$ ; OR = 2.864 (95% CI: 1.130-7.256).

### Sensitivity Analysis: Sibling Age Gap.

An approximate sibling age gap (in months) did not differ significantly between children who experienced sibling rivalry (mean 38.4, SD 12.0 months) and those who did not (mean 41.2, SD 13.2 months) (Mann-Whitney U = 793.0,  $p = 0.448$ ). In a binary logistic regression predicting sibling rivalry from parenting style category and the approximate sibling age gap simultaneously, at-risk parenting remained significantly associated with sibling rivalry after adjustment (adjusted OR = 2.70, 95% CI: 1.04-7.04,  $p = 0.042$ ), while the sibling age gap itself was not a significant predictor (OR = 0.99 per month, 95% CI: 0.96-1.03,  $p = 0.624$ ). The attenuation from the unadjusted OR of 2.864 to the adjusted OR of 2.70 was minor, suggesting that the sibling age gap did not substantially confound the association between parenting style and sibling rivalry in this sample.

**Table 3.** Logistic Regression of Sibling Rivalry on Parenting Style and Approximate Sibling Age Gap

| Predictor                                | Adjusted OR | 95% CI    | p-value |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| At-risk parenting (ref: non-at-risk)     | 2.70        | 1.04-7.04 | 0.042   |
| Sibling age gap (per month, approximate) | 0.99        | 0.96-1.03 | 0.624   |

Source: Secondary analysis of primary data, 2025. Sibling age gap was approximated from banded age data (child's age in years; sibling's age in 12-month bands) using band midpoints; this approximation carries measurement imprecision and the result should be read as an exploratory sensitivity check.

## DISCUSSION

This study found a significant association between parenting style and sibling rivalry among preschool children at an Islamic kindergarten in Pekanbaru, Indonesia. More than half of the respondents applied a parenting style categorized as at risk, and children in this group showed a higher proportion of sibling rivalry than children receiving democratic parenting. Children in the at-risk parenting group had 2.864 times the odds of experiencing sibling rivalry compared with children in the non-at-risk parenting group (95% CI: 1.130-7.256); because the confidence interval is comparatively wide, this estimate should be interpreted with some caution regarding its precision, which is likely related to the modest sample size.

Several conceptual mechanisms may help explain why authoritarian and permissive parenting are associated with greater sibling rivalry, although these mechanisms remain possible explanations rather than pathways demonstrated by this cross-sectional design. One plausible pathway is inconsistent parental attention: social learning theory suggests that children's behavior, including conflict responses, is partly learned by observing and imitating models in their environment, and that the consistency of a model's behavior influences how strongly it is imitated (Bandura et al., 1961). Parenting that is unpredictable or only intermittently responsive, as may occur under a permissive style with inconsistent supervision, could therefore model and inadvertently reinforce conflict behavior between siblings rather than resolving it, consistent with evidence that ineffective parenting predicts sibling conflict and associated behavior problems (Bank et al., 2004). A second pathway is harsh or high control: authoritarian parenting, characterized by high control and low warmth, may leave children with fewer opportunities to have their individual needs for attention acknowledged, potentially intensifying competition with siblings for parental recognition. A third pathway is differential attention: a large multilevel meta-analysis of more than 26,000 children and adolescents found that both the direction and the magnitude of parental differential treatment between siblings were linked to more internalizing and externalizing behavior, with some associations stronger when siblings were closer in age (Jensen & Thomsen, 2024). A fourth, related pathway is children's perception of fairness rather than differential treatment per se: a recent study of adolescent siblings found that parental conditional regard, in which parental affection is perceived as contingent on meeting parental expectations, undermined sibling relationship quality by heightening competition for parental approval and perceived disfavoritism (Steffgen et al., 2025). Democratic parenting, by combining consistent guidance with emotional responsiveness, may support children's sense of being fairly and unconditionally treated and reduce the perceived need to compete for parental attention. This reasoning is broadly consistent with a recent meta-analysis showing that authoritative (democratic) parenting is a protective factor against sibling conflict, whereas authoritarian, neglectful, indulgent, and inconsistent parenting styles are positively associated with sibling conflict, with the association for inconsistent parenting being especially

*Aminah Hidayati & Ani Triana., Parenting Style And Sibling Rivalry...*



pronounced in Asian samples (Liu & Rahman, 2022). It should be emphasized that none of these four pathways were directly tested in the present cross-sectional design; they are offered as possible explanations consistent with the observed association, not as mechanisms demonstrated by this study's data.

It is also worth noting that authoritarian and permissive parenting are conceptually distinct despite being combined into a single at-risk category in this study. Authoritarian parenting is characterized by high parental control paired with low warmth, which may drive sibling rivalry through a child's experience of insufficient emotional acknowledgment, whereas permissive parenting is characterized by low control and inconsistent supervision, which may allow sibling conflicts to escalate unchecked rather than being actively addressed by parents. This distinction matters because a recent threshold analysis of parenting styles and preschool children's social-emotional competence found that authoritative and permissive parenting predicted opposite outcomes, with permissive parenting showing a sharp decline in children's social-emotional competence once scores crossed a specific threshold (Wen et al., 2026), suggesting that the two styles combined under the at-risk category in the present study may not carry equivalent weight. Because the total-score classification used in this study does not separate these two mechanisms, the present data cannot determine whether one pathway contributes more strongly to sibling rivalry than the other; this distinction would require an instrument that scores each parenting dimension independently, as discussed further under Limitations.

The present findings are consistent with previous Indonesian studies. Girsang (2024) reported a significant association between parenting style and sibling rivalry among preschool children ( $p = 0.002$ ), and Surahmat et al. (2023) similarly found a significant relationship and emphasized the importance of parenting practices that correspond to children's developmental stages. The direction of association in the present study is therefore in line with this existing body of Indonesian evidence, while additionally quantifying the magnitude of the association through an odds ratio, which most prior studies in this setting did not report.

### **Considering the Sibling Age Gap as a Potential Confounder.**

An important methodological question is whether family characteristics other than parenting style, particularly the age gap between the preschool child and the sibling, might account for part of the observed association. This question is motivated by prior evidence that birth-related family configuration is itself associated with children's psychosocial outcomes; for example, a large population-based study in Japan found that birth order was associated with differences in behavioral difficulties, prosocial behavior, and resilience among school-aged children (Fukuya et al., 2021), suggesting that sibling age spacing and birth position are plausible family-level correlates of child adjustment that could, in principle, overlap with parenting style. In the present sample, an approximate



sibling age gap derived from banded age data was not significantly associated with sibling rivalry, and adjusting for it in a logistic regression model only minimally attenuated the odds ratio for parenting style (from 2.864 unadjusted to 2.70 adjusted). This finding provides reassurance that the sibling age gap, at least as approximated here, is unlikely to be a strong confounder of the parenting style-sibling rivalry association in this sample. Nonetheless, because age was recorded in categorical bands rather than in exact months, this analysis should be regarded as an exploratory sensitivity check rather than a fully precise confounder-adjusted estimate, and it does not rule out confounding by other unmeasured family characteristics such as birth order, sibling gender combination, or child temperament, which were not collected in this study.

This study has several limitations that should be considered when interpreting the findings. First, the cross-sectional design allows an association between parenting style and sibling rivalry to be established but does not permit causal inference; longitudinal or intervention designs would be needed to determine whether changes in parenting style precede changes in sibling rivalry. Second, the parenting style classification was based on a total raw score across 20 dichotomous items spanning democratic-, authoritarian-, and permissive-oriented statements, rather than on separate sub-scale scores for each style; this scoring approach, inherited from the source instrument (Oktriani, 2019), means that the at-risk classification reflects an overall pattern of endorsement rather than confirmation of specific authoritarian or permissive behaviors, and future studies may benefit from instruments that generate independent sub-scale scores, such as the Preschool Children Sibling Rivalry Scale validated by Aktürk and Demircan (2018) for the sibling rivalry outcome. Third, the sibling age gap sensitivity analysis relied on banded rather than exact age data, introducing measurement imprecision. Fourth, the study was conducted in a single kindergarten, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other populations and settings. Fifth, family characteristics that are conceptually relevant to sibling rivalry but were not collected in this study, such as birth order, sibling gender combination, and child temperament, could not be examined and remain potential unmeasured confounders of the observed association.

From a midwifery perspective, these findings are relevant because child and family health services increasingly require attention not only to physical development but also to children's psychosocial and family environments, particularly during the transition surrounding the arrival of a new sibling.

## CONCLUSION

There was a significant association between parenting style and sibling rivalry among preschool children at an Islamic kindergarten in Pekanbaru, Indonesia (continuity-corrected  $p = 0.043$ ). Children exposed to at-risk parenting styles, comprising permissive and authoritarian parenting, had 2.864 times the odds of experiencing sibling rivalry



compared with children receiving democratic parenting (95% CI: 1.130-7.256), and this association was not substantially explained by the approximate sibling age gap. These findings highlight the importance of parenting approaches that provide consistent guidance, communication, emotional support, and equitable attention to children.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR MIDWIFERY PRACTICE**

These findings support the integration of parenting education and psychosocial family assessment into midwifery-led child and family health services. During antenatal care for a subsequent pregnancy, midwives can proactively counsel parents on strategies to support the older child's adjustment, including maintaining consistent routines and providing equitable attention. During well-child and growth-monitoring visits, midwives are well positioned to briefly screen for early signs of sibling rivalry, such as regression, tantrums, or aggression toward a sibling, and to offer anticipatory guidance on positive, non-violent discipline and effective parent-child communication. When more structured support is warranted, midwives can refer families to established evidence-based parenting programs; a comprehensive meta-analysis of the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program, for example, found small-to-moderate positive effects on parenting practices and child behavior problems across numerous trials (Nowak & Heinrichs, 2008), indicating that structured parenting support is a viable referral option rather than a purely hypothetical one. Where problematic sibling interactions are identified, midwives can facilitate timely referral to a psychologist or other family health professional for more intensive psychosocial support, positioning midwifery care as a bridge between routine maternal and child health services and broader family mental health support, rather than as a substitute for specialized intervention.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

A.H. contributed to conceptualization, methodology, data curation, investigation, and writing of the original draft. A.T. contributed to conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, supervision, writing (review and editing), and project administration. Both authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

## **FUNDING**

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to express their gratitude to TK Islam YLPI Marpoan, Pekanbaru, the participating parents, and all parties who supported the implementation of this research. The authors also acknowledge the support of Universitas Hang Tuah Pekanbaru in the completion of the research.

## ETHICAL STATEMENT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

### Ethical Approval and Consent.

This study received ethical approval from the Research Ethics Committee of Universitas Hang Tuah Pekanbaru, with ethical approval number 254/KEPK/UHTP/V/2025. Participants provided informed consent before participating in the study, and participant anonymity and confidentiality were maintained throughout the research process.

### Conflict of Interest.

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest related to this study.

## REFERENCES

- Aktürk, A. A., & Demircan, H. Ö. (2018). Development of Preschool Children Sibling Rivalry Scale ( PSRS ). *Child Ind Res*, 11, 117–136. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-016-9425-8>
- Alidosti, M., Dehghani, S. L., Babaei-Heydarabadi, A., & Tavassoli, E. (2016). Comparison of Parenting Style in Single Child and Multiple Children Families. *Iranian Journal of Health Sciences*, 4(2), 49–54. <https://doi.org/10.18869/acadpub.jhs.4.2.49>
- Bandura, A., Ross, D., & Ross, S. A. (1961). Transmission of Aggression through Imitation of Aggressive Models. *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 63(3), 575–582. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0045925>
- Bank, L., Burraston, B., & Snyder, J. (2004). Sibling Conflict and Ineffective Parenting as Predictors of Adolescent Boys' Antisocial Behavior and Peer Difficulties: Additive and Interactional Effects. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 14(1), 99–125. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-7795.2004.01401005.x>
- Baumrind, D. (1971). Current patterns of parental authority. *Developmental Psychology Monograph*, 4(1), 94720. <https://doi.org/10.1037/h0030372>
- Baumrind, D. (1991). The Influence of Parenting Style on Adolescent Competence and Substance Use. *The Journal of Early Adolescence*, 11(1), 56–95.



<https://doi.org/10.1177/0272431691111004>

- Bowen, M. (1974). Alcoholism as Viewed through Family Systems Theory and family Psychotherapy. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 15(233), 115–122. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1749-6632.1974.tb40288.x>
- Elm, E. Von, Altman, D. G., Egger, M., Pocock, S. J., Gøtzsche, P. C., & Vandenbroucke, J. P. (2008). The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 61(4), 344–349. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2007.11.008>
- Fukuya, Y., Fujiwara, T., Isumi, A., Doi, S., & Ochi, M. (2021). Association of Birth Order With Mental Health Problems, Self-Esteem, Resilience, and Happiness Among Children: Results From A-CHILD Study. *Front. Psychiatry*, 12(April). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2021.638088>
- Girsang, E. (2024). Hubungan Pola Asuh Orang Tua Dengan Terjadinya Sibling Rivalry Pada Anak Usia Prasekolah (3-5 tahun) Di TK Islam Al Nurdahlan Kota Bogor. *Jurnal Ilmiah Wijaya*, 16(1), 40–48.
- Jensen, A. C., & Thomsen, A. E. (2024). Parental Differential Treatment of Siblings Linked with Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior: A Meta-analysis. *Child Development*, 95(4), 1384–1405. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14091>
- Kim, H. (2017). Statistical Notes for Clinical Researchers: Chi-squared Test and Fisher's Exact Test. *Restorative Dentistry & Endodontics*, 42(2), 152–155. <https://doi.org/10.5395/rde.2017.42.2.152>
- Liu, C., & Rahman, M. N. A. (2022). Relationships between parenting style and sibling conflicts: A meta-analysis. *Front Psychol*, 13, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.936253>
- Nowak, C., & Heinrichs, N. (2008). A Comprehensive Meta-Analysis of Triple P-Positive Parenting Program Using Hierarchical Linear Modeling: Effectiveness and Moderating Variables. *Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev*, 11, 114–144. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-008-0033-0>
- Oktriani, Y. (2019). *Hubungan Pola Asuh Orang Tua dengan Kejadian Sibling Rivalry (Kecemburuan terhadap Saudara Kandung) pada Balita di Desa Labuhan Bakti Kabupaten Simeulue Tahun 2019*. Institu Kesehatan Helvetia Medan.
- Rimalia, Elyta, R., & Mutia, R. (2022). *How to Deal With Sibling Rivalry*. Laksana.



<https://books.google.co.id/books?id=c5x5EAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=id#v=onepage&q&f=false>

- Steffgen, S. T., Otterpoh, N., Assor, A., Kanat-Maymon, Y., Gueta, B. El, & Schwinger, M. (2025). " They always disfavor me !": Parental Conditional Regard Undermines Teenage Sibling Relationships through Raising Competition and Perceived Disfavoritism. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 35(3), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jora.70071>
- Surahmat, R., Akhriansyah, M., Rusmarita, & Riskiana. (2023). Pentingnya Pola Asuh Terhadap Sibling Rivalry Pada Anak. *Jurnal Kesehatan Medika Saintika*, 14(1), 127–133. <https://doi.org/10.30633/jkms.v14i1.1715>
- Wang, H., & Liu, X. (2025). The Relation Between Family Intimacy and Preschoolers ' Social – Emotional Competence : The Mediating Role of Psychological Resilience and the Moderating Role of Family – Preschool Interaction. *Behav. Sci*, 15(11), 1564. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs15111564>
- Wen, Y., Zhu, C., Wei, Y., Chen, T., Li, T., & Wu, X. (2026). How Key Family Factors Influence Preschool Children's Social–Emotional Competence : Threshold Effects of Parental Parenting Styles and Parent–Child Interaction Quality. *Frontiers Psychology*, 17(1815141), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2026.1815141>

