A Common Family Factor Underlying Language Difficulties and Internalizing Problems: Findings From a Population-Based Sibling Study


The Common Family Factor

Co-occurrence Unexplained by Family Factor
31%

Co-occurrence Explained by Family Factor
69%

Language Difficulties + Internalizing Problems

Sibling 1

Sibling 2

Language difficulties and internalizing problems, such as anxiety and depression, often co-occur in children, but it is not known why.

This Norwegian Mother, Father and Child Cohort Study (MoBa) followed Norwegian siblings from age 5 to 8.

The co-occurrence of language difficulties and internalizing problems is mainly due to family factors (e.g., genetics, shared environment) as opposed to non-familial factors.

The degree to which family factors contributed to language difficulties and internalizing problems did not change from age 5 to age 8.