What are Sibshops?

Sibshops is a program which was developed by Don Meyer, Director of the Sibling Support Project and the Kindering Center in Seattle, WA. Sibshops are evidence of an appreciation for the family member who will have the longest-lasting relationship with a person who has a disability. However, for the kids who attend them, Sibshops are pedal-to-the metal events where they will meet other sibs (usually for the first time), have fun, laugh, talk about the good and not-so-good parts of having a sib with special needs, play some great games, learn something about the services their brothers and sister receive, and have some more fun!

Are Sibshops a form of therapy?

Sibshops may be “therapeutic” for kids to attend, but they’re not therapy. Sibshops takes a wellness perspective. They’re a celebration of the many lifelong contributions made by brothers and sisters of people with special health and developmental needs.

Who attends Sibshops?

Sibs, of course! The Autism Society of Alabama sponsors Sibshops geared towards sibs of kids with autism and other developmental concerns. While Sibshops were developed for sibs in the 8-13 year-old age range, we love including older sibs as volunteers with invaluable experience to share.

Who facilitates Sibshops?

The Autism Society of Alabama is fortunate to have a certified Sibshop Facilitator on staff. Michelle McDaniel, Community Outreach Coordinator for South Alabama holds a Master’s degree in special education and over 20 years of experience working with children with special needs and their families.

Where can I find more information?

The Sibling Support Project

Or Email michelle@autism-alabama.org