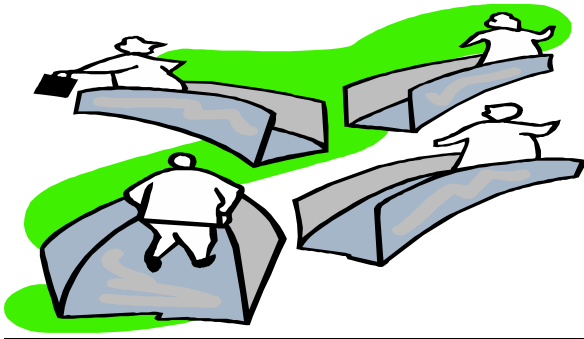


BIRTH ORDER*



Some researchers have suggested that your birth order position in your family can determine some of your personality characteristics in life. Can you find yourself below?

POSITION	TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS	TIPS FOR PARENTS
First Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often take responsibility for other siblings. • Gets along well with authority figures. • Likely to become a high achiever. • Needs to feel right, perfect, superior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid pressure to succeed. • Encourage the fun of participating, not the goal of winning. • Teach that “mistakes are for learning.” • Show “how to be gentle with yourself” when accepting failure.
Only Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to being the center of attention. • Unsure of self in many ways. • May feel incompetent compared to others (e.g., parents). • Likely to be responsible. • Often refuses to cooperate if fails to get own way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide learning opportunities with other children. • Encourage visiting friends. • Have spend-the-night company. • Utilize childcare and nursery schools.
Second Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May try to catch up with older child’s competence. • May try to be older child’s opposite in many ways. • May rebel in order to find own place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage child’s uniqueness. • Avoid comparisons with oldest. • Allow second child to handle his own conflicts with the oldest.
Middle Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May feel crowded out, unsure of position. • May be sensitive, bitter or revengeful. • May be a good diplomat or mediator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make time for one-on-one activities. • Include in family functions. • Ask for her opinion.
Youngest Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often spoiled by parents and older siblings. • Often kept a baby. • Often self-indulgent. • Often highly creative. • Often clever. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not do for the youngest (especially on a regular basis) what he can do alone. • Don’t rescue from conflicts (thus making a victim). • Don’t refer to as “the baby.” • Encourage self-reliance.

* Source: The Parent’s Handbook by Dinkmeyer