

Birth Order Characteristics

Sibling Rivalry – siblings competing for superiority and attention/ love from parents

First Borns

Most successful – traditional path to success; get 1st pick of specialty

High achievers – overdriven

Winning is everything – stay at the top

Higher IQs

Leaders

Self-reliant – parents will help the youngers before they help you

Caregivers - Babysitting

Perfectionists

- organized, **neat**, list makers

Well-Behaved – get the most discipline; best at following orders and rules

Compliant – people-pleasers – best at pleasing their parents

Conservative – hierarchy/ authority should be respected; rules should be followed

Most like Parents – they are the only ones you can look up to...

Competent – you are asked to do the jobs

Anxious – parents watching your every move

Walk and talk earlier

Being better and taking care of youngers is your way of regaining superiority and attention

You were Dethroned and are angry at next born

- stories of being aggressive toward next born or wanting to bring back to hospital

56% presidents 1st born

21 /23 astronauts sent to space 1sts other 2 onlies

Onlies

Extreme versions of 1st borns

Can be self-centered/ feel overly important – received all the attention growing up; never had to share

“Little Adult” – parents the ONLY influence in the house. Parents can focus all attention on them to help them develop skills.

If parents CHOOSE to have only one to dedicate all time and resources to creating a superchild, WATCH OUT! Talented, Very confident on outside; but very insecure and seething with rebellion on the inside. Don't get to be a kid.

Ultra perfectionists – parents always watching every move and commenting.

Critical – critique others as they were critiqued

Upset when things don't go their way – everything was always set up right for them...

Oldests vs. Youngers

Sulloway – Born to Rebel

- Oldests throughout history have identified with parents and authority and have upheld the dominant rules, values, and status quo, whereas youngers have rebelled against it.
- The family a struggle for survival – every member fighting for parental attention
- Finding your own niche within the family – this is why two kids from the same family may look completely different.

Middles

Feel left out/ ignored

Least number of photos of middles in family photo albums

First born is the oldest and the best – admiration and privileges; youngest is the baby and gets all the love and attention for being so cute – middle gets left out

Middle plays off the oldest – doing something completely different

Very social – more friends – spends time outside the family – looks to create a new family outside the home where they will not be as left out

- susceptible to peer pressure and the wrong crowd

Moves furthest away from home as an adult

Mediators, peacemakers, diplomats – knows what it's like to be an older and a younger

Good at negotiating and compromise – needed these skills to get their needs met as they were more likely to get passed over

Independent

Mentally tough – used to being treated unfairly

Secretive – more a closed book – avoid more rejection

Most monogamous in marriage – they appreciate their new family and really want to make it work

Lower expectations in relationships; thus, more accepting.

Youngests

Baby of the family

Tend to have a y added to the end of their name – Joey instead of Joe

Attention in the family by being cute and funny

Charming

Class Clown

Outgoing – love to entertain the crowd

Often comedians and entertainers

Used to a lot of attention – anything to get a laugh – suckers for praise and encouragement

Rebels – attention through breaking the rules – being bad / problem child - pranks

Parents are tired of upholding rules at this point and let them get away with more

Spoiled – Everyone else in the family helps to take care of their needs

- may struggle with independence

Less attention to detail – “unbuttoned and unzipped”

Their incompetence and lack of understanding of rules is cute and rewarded

- Not trusted to do any jobs in the house
- Parents are tired of teaching the skills of life

Less achievement oriented

- parents less excited about achievements as they have seen it before.

Never taken seriously

- “I’ll show you!”
- Persistence

Affectionate – used to a lot of cuddling and coddling