






Birth Order Relationships

Birth order may not be the most important factor in personality development, but we can make some generalizations.

<p>If you're the OLDEST, you're probably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• successful.• conservative.• self-critical—always feeling you could do better.• able to enjoy the company of older people. <p>Parents often expect a lot from the first child. They often push them to succeed. The first child often has to grow up very fast.</p>  	<p>If you're a MIDDLE child, you're probably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the one with the most friends.• the silent rebel against the family's values.  <p>Middle children often feel less important than their older or younger siblings.</p>	<p>If you're the YOUNGEST child, you're probably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a show-off who enjoys the limelight.• often the family clown, making everyone laugh.• both charming and a rebel—lovable one minute and breaking rules the next.• creative in art, music, and other ways. <p>The youngest child often has the longest childhood.</p>  
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Source: Theresa M. Campbell www.suite101.com

Vocabulary

Instruction: Find these words in the article. Then complete each statement with one of the words.

clown	self-critical
values	creative
charming	rebel
sibling	

1. Another word for a brother or a sister is a _____.
2. The cultural rules within each family are its _____.
3. Another word for lovable is _____.
4. People who feel they should “do better” are _____.
5. A person who doesn't follow the rules is a _____.
6. Artists, musical composers, and writers are _____.
7. A person who enjoys making other people laugh is a _____.

Let's Talk!

1. When did you arrive in your family?
2. Are you the oldest child, a middle child, or the “baby”?
3. Which description sounds like your personality?
4. In families you know, are the descriptions in the article generally true? Give examples to support your opinion.
5. Do you believe that personality characteristics are associated with birth order?
6. Do you think the first child in a family has different personality traits from children who are born later?
7. Does birth position affect a person's intelligence?
8. Firstborn kids are generally more intelligent than their siblings and are often the most successful in life. What do you think is the reason why this happens?
9. How does birth order affect a person's chances for success in life? Can someone's personality change?