

ORCA

The Need To Belong – Birth Order



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BIRTH ORDER:

Each “psychological position” in the family gives a unique vantage point in which a child can perceive his place in the family and the possibility of how to gain a sense of significance amongst the others. Each position may produce “basic mistakes” in thinking / beliefs that a parent can moderate or exaggerate.

- First Born – I must be first and best.
- Seconds – I must be the opposite of number one.
- Middles – Life is unfair.
- Babies – I can overcome my feelings of smallness by feeling powerful when I put people in my service.

ONLY					
+VE	-VE	Characteristic	Famous	Parent DO's	Parent DON'Ts
-Exposure to more adult experience -More parental attention -Very mature -Very responsible -Want to get it right	-Limited exposure to peers -Don't learn about sharing, negotiating -Don't learn to read social cues -Can be pampered or spoiled	-Little Adults -Always feel inferior to these big giants they hang around with -Perfectionist (everyone is watching!) -Prefer the company of a few good friends or adults -Verbally advanced -Like to be the centre of adult/authority attention -May please authority -Organized -Scholarly (esp. science – black or white/right or wrong) -Conservative -Reliable -Law/rule abiding	-Franklin Roosevelt -Leonardo Di Vinci -Indira Ghandi	-Work to incorporate socializing with other children in play groups	-Pamper, protect

FIRST BORN

“Dethroned Only”, “Everyone depends on me”, “I can’t get away with anything”,

“I don’t get to be a kid”, “Why do I have to do it?”

+VE	-VE	Characteristic	Famous	Parent DO's	Parent DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Had a lot of attention once which can help develop their confidence, -Given responsibility -Given privileges that younger kids are not -No hand me downs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Really high expectations from parents -Expected to set an example -The guinea pig child that broke mom and dad in -No older sibling to learn from -Younger sibling always biting at your heels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Leadership stress/pressure -Always looking out for someone to overtake them again -Confident -Determined -Eager to please; esp. authority figures -Avoid trouble -Want to get it right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Almost all US presidents were Only or First Borns -Bill Cosby -Oprah Winfrey -George Bush -Hillary Clinton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Watch for stress in these kids -Give them space -Let them be kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Overburden with responsibility (esp. over other siblings) -Lay off watching over their shoulder and commenting on their every move -Give them things to do because it is easier or hassle-free.

SECOND BORN

+VE	-VE	Characteristic	Famous	Parent DO's	Parent DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Someone else broke mom and dad in -Can learn from an older sibling -Exposed to things earlier because they are around (bikes, computer games, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Competitive -Tough to follow in the shoes of the 'goody goody' -Tend to be good at being bad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Opposite to #1 (if #1 is not typical then it is because #2 took over him) -Peacemaker -Avis car rental “We’re #2, so we try harder” -Competitive -More social/outgoing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Notice effort and not achievement -Give according to need (“When your running shoes are too small we’ll get you new ones too!”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Don’t lock them into roles “He’s my athlete...” -Don’t stimulate sibling rivalry by comparing or trying to make everything equal

MIDDLE

“I’m tired of being left out”, “Nobody understands or listens to me”, “I’m always in the shadow of my older sibling”, “My younger sibling gets away with everything”, “I’m treated unfairly”

+VE	-VE	Characteristic	Famous	Parent DO's	Parent DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -You can hide -Take it or leave it type -Concern with the underdog, justice, fairness -Seek therapy the least in adulthood (life has always been difficult – no change to shock them) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nobody notices you -No privileges of the older child, no pampering of the younger child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“Sandwich kid” -Most discouraged -It’s not fair! -Socialize more out of the house where they can find a place to get attention or recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jay Leno -Donald Trump -Susan B Anthony -Barbara Walters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Find special time -Work harder to listen and understand their viewpoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ignore -Forget to take pictures -Lose enthusiasm when they meet milestones

BABY

“Only one not dethroned besides an Only”, “No one takes me seriously”, “I have to work hard to get anyone to notice me”, “Everyone treats me younger than I am”

+VE	-VE	Characteristic	Famous	Parent DO's	Parent DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mom and dad are broken in -They learn from all the mistakes and lessons from the siblings ahead of them -Free spirits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nobody takes them seriously -Parental enthusiasm has worn off (no pictures, hard to impress with new feats) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cutie Pie -Clowns -Funny -Persistent -Good story tellers (spin a yarn) -Affectionate -Thrill-seeking, adventurous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Drew Carey -Jim Carey -Billy Crystal -Eddie Murphy -Rosie O'Donnell -Whoopi Goldberg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Give responsibility -Let them “do for themselves” -Treat their ideas and suggestions seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get stuck “babying” your last one, holding on, dragging it out -Don’t let older siblings take over their responsibilities