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| ADLER’S BIRTH ORDER CHART |

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| **POSITION** | **FAMILY SITUATION** | **CHILD'S CHARACTERISTICS** |
| **ONLY** | * Birth is a miracle. * Parents have no previous experience. * Retains 200% attention from both parents. * May become rival of one parent. * Can be over-protected and spoiled. | * Likes being the center of adult attention. * Often has difficulty sharing with siblings and peers. * Prefers adult company and uses adult language. |
| **OLDEST** | * Dethroned by next child. * Has to learn to share. * Parent expectations are usually very high. * Often given responsibility and expected to set an example. | * May become authoritarian or strict. * Feels power is his right. * Can become helpful if encouraged. * May turn to father after birth of next child. |
| **SECOND** | * He has a pacemaker. There is always someone ahead. | * Is more competitive, wants to overtake older child. * May become a rebel or try to outdo everyone. * Competition can deteriorate into rivalry. |
| **MIDDLE** | * Is "sandwiched" in. * May feel squeezed out of a position of privilege and significance. | * May be even-tempered, "take it or leave it" attitude. * May have trouble finding a place or become a fighter of injustice. |
| **YOUNGEST** | * Has many mothers and fathers. * Older children try to educate him. * Never dethroned. | * Wants to be bigger than the others. * May have huge plans that never work out. * Can stay the "baby." * Frequently spoiled. |
| **TWIN** | * One is usually stronger or more active. * Parents may see one as the older. | * Can have identity problems. * Stronger one may become the leader. |
| **"GHOST CHILD"** | * Child born after the death of the first child may have a "ghost" in front of him. * Mother may become over-protective. | * Child may exploit mother's over-concern for his well-being, or he may rebel, and protest the feeling of being compared to an idealized memory. |
| **ADOPTED CHILD** | * Parents may be so thankful to have a child that they spoil him. * They may try to compensate for the loss of his biological parents. | * Child may become very spoiled and demanding. * Eventually, he may resent or idealize the biological parents. |
| **ONLY BOY AMONG GIRLS** | * Usually with women all the time, if father is away. | * May try to prove he is the man in the family, or become effeminate. |
| **ONLY GIRL AMONG BOYS** | * Older brothers may act as her protectors. | * Can become very feminine, or a tomboy and outdo the brothers. * May try to please the father. |
| **ALL BOYS** | * If mother wanted a girl, can be dressed as a girl. | * Child may capitalize on assigned role or protest it vigorously. |
| **ALL GIRLS** | * May be dressed as a boy. | * Child may capitalize on assigned role or protest it vigorously. |