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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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **"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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **ALL BOYS** | * If mother wanted a girl, can be dressed as a girl.
 | * Child may capitalize on assigned role or protest it vigorously.
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| **ALL GIRLS** | * May be dressed as a boy.
 | * Child may capitalize on assigned role or protest it vigorously.
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