

Birth Order (Adler said 'Remember it always could be different.)

Only Child: Often pampered

Centre of interest

May be unsure of himself, feel lonely and resent not having siblings.

May feel unable to share.

May not be able to stand up for himself.

May feel unfairly treated and refuse to cooperate.

May solicit sympathy by being shy or helpless.

May be highly responsible.

Often relates better to those much older or younger.

First Child: Is an only child at first and centre of interest, then feels dethroned on arrival of second child.

May seek attention and may become discouraged.

Tends to be responsible and dependable and gets along well with authority figures.

Often a high achiever.

Feels he has to be first, right, perfect and superior.

Second child: Opposite of first, if first is good, second 'bad' and vice versa.

First two children in a family are usually opposites.

Has to try harder.

Frequently a rebel, may overcompensate, may become pushy.

Youngest child: Similar to only child but has siblings to observe and copy from. Often spoilt by parents and older siblings.

May lack self reliance and act the baby.

Frequently allied with the oldest.

Frequently highly creative, successful

May develop feelings of inferiority and become discouraged.

Middle child: Does not have the privileges of either oldest or youngest and may feel uncertain of his place. May feel neglected and unloved. Often more sociable, but sensitive to injustices. May become discouraged and become a problem.

(From class handout)