

Typical Birth Order Characteristics

Compiled by Dr. Marian Fritze-meier ©2014

First Born Child: The Achiever	Middle Born Child(ren): The Peacemaker	Last Born Child: Life of the Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People pleasers; seek approval • Rule-conscious; need to know exactly what the rules are • May become compliant; conformist • Very organized, detail & goal-oriented • Perfectionist; do things right • High achiever/overachiever • Cooperative, easy to work with, good team player • Command respect; natural leader; responsible; prompt • May be bossy, know-it-all, often controlling, authoritarian manner, especially towards younger siblings • Logical thinker; voracious reader; know facts; good problem solver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent, easy-going, flexible, & highly adaptable Outgoing, sociable & strong peer relationships • Often generous • Excellent mediator or negotiator; diplomatic • Willing to do things differently; take a risk, strike out on own • May feel that life is unfair; feel unloved or squeezed out by siblings • Differentiates from the eldest sibling through behaviors & interests • Views oldest or youngest child as parents' "favorite" • May be extremely competitive • May be rebellious; engage in attention seeking behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often silly or funny; attention-loving; persistent • Can be equal parts charming & manipulative • Work well one-on-one, small groups; social settings & events their cup of tea • Often creative • Friendly & outgoing; terrific sense of humor; affectionate • Can be very self-centered; impatient; uncertain • Often feels inferior as if everyone else is bigger & more capable • Highly competitive • Can become bored easily; display risk-taking behaviors • Expects others to care of them & take responsibility for them

Sources:

1. *Does Birth Order Really Matter?* Sue Flanagan, WVU Extension Agent, Berkeley County, Patty Morrison, WVU Extension Agent, Wirt County, Extension Service, West Virginia University, 2007. www.wvu.edu/~exten/infores/pubs/fypubs/WLG_237%20Birth%20Order%20... Accessed 10/10/2014.
2. *The Birth Order Book: Why You Are the Way You Are*, Dr. Kevin Leman, Revell, 1998.
3. *Birth Order Characteristics: Does birth order determine personality?* Karen Frazier kids.lovetoknow.com › ... › Accessed 10/10/2014.