

# Birth Order



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If you're the oldest, you're probably:

- Most likely to succeed
- Most conscientious and reliable
- Conservative
- Self-critical
- A perfectionist
- Able to enjoy the company of older people
- The link between your parents and siblings

In addition, oldest children are:

- Seldom allowed to be just kids—their parents continually push them ahead and expect the most from them
- Often dethroned by younger siblings
- Convinced their siblings will outshine them

If you're the middle child, you're probably:

- A compromiser and negotiator
- The silent rebel against the family's values
- The one with the most friends, an effective team player
- Reticent, but dream of being catapulted to greatness
- Part of the woodwork, unless finally given a position of outright command

Middle children are also:

- Well aware they are frequently bypassed and upstaged by older or younger sibs
- Softer eager to carve out a unique spot in the family, whether positive or negative
- Likely to be compelled to move away from the family to establish a secure spot among their peers

If you're the youngest child, you're probably:

- Compelled to make a contribution to the world
- A show-off who enjoys the limelight
- Both a charmer and a rebel—endearing one minute, hard to deal with the next
- Often the family clown
- Creative

Youngest children are also:

- Often stuck doubting the validity of their perceptions because they were often laughed at or not taken seriously
- Likely to be compelled to do what the older children haven't

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