

Drivers Ed For Parents Part 1.3

ARE THEY ALL THE SAME YEAR MODEL?

- Which seems to describe you most?

A) Perfectionist, reliable, conscientious, list maker, well organized, hard driving, natural leader, critical, serious, scholarly, logical, doesn't like surprises, loves computers.

B) Mediator, compromising, diplomatic, avoids conflict, independent, loyal to peers, many friends, a maverick, secretive, unspoiled.

C) Manipulative, blames others, charming, attention seeker, tenacious, people person, natural salesperson, precocious, engaging, affectionate, and loves surprises.

D) Little adult by age seven, very thorough, deliberate, high achiever, self-motivated, fearful, cautious; voracious reader; black and white thinker; uses "very", "extremely", and "exactly" a lot; can't bear to fail; has high expectations for self, more comfortable with people who are older or younger.

If you picked "A"-Probably 1st Born

If you picked "B"-Probably 2nd Born

If you picked "C"-Probably Last Born

If you picked "D"- Good chance you are Only Child

3 Factors that help determine birth order traits

- #1-Obviously the order they were born in
- #2-Spacing-How far apart are they?
- #3-Are they the only male/female?

Biblical Illustration of the birth order

The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ *After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.* **Gen. 25:25.**

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ *Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.* **Gen. 25:27.**

Notice anything different about the two boys and the Parents preferences? Why would the parents like one over the other?

- ***Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished.*** ³⁰ ***He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright. "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me? But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to***

Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright. Gen. 25: 28-34

First borns don't see the big picture sometimes because of their drive and ambition. That leads to being naïve which allows them to be taken advantage of. I also see characteristics of the last child. These children can be manipulative while at the same time show great "salesman-like skill to get what they want. I see both of those taking place in the passage above.

- ***Isaac asked his son, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The Lord your God gave me success," he replied. Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not." Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. ²⁴ "Are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "I am," he replied. Then he said, "My son, bring me some of your game to eat, so that I may give you my blessing." Jacob brought it to him and he ate; and he brought some wine and he drank. ²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come here, my son, and kiss me." So he went to him and kissed him. When Isaac caught the smell of his clothes, he blessed him***

Do you see any deception going on here or lying and manipulating?

These are all characteristics of a last child. Makes me think Rebekah might have been a last child as well.

Well this part of the story ends with Isaac blessing Jacob and poor Esau shows up too late and gets left out. You see, once the Patriarch gives his one and only blessing he can't take it back.

A Closer Look at each birth order

▪ **THE FIRST BORN**

They tend to be conscientious, well organized, serious, goal oriented, achiever, and believers in authority. They are perfectionist reliable, critical, self-sacrificing, conservative, supporter of law and order, legalistic, and self-reliant

If a first born is perfectionists then what temperament would they probably fall under?

Or

- **First borns love to be exacting-precise, and picky.**
- **They love to ask questions and are analytical**
- First borns are serious people and take on a nurturing nature. They grow up faster than their siblings and take on more grown up characteristics. Why?
- Tend to remember more negative aspects of their life than positive
- They put a lot of pressure on themselves to perform

What can happen to a first born from the last two statements above?

First Born Strengths

Leadership-take charge
knows what to do
Confident-Others want to follow such a person
Cooperative, easy to work with on projects
Perfectionist, doesn't leave any stone unturned
Organized, has things in its proper place
Strong drive and ambition
Very goal oriented
Very logical and a straight thinker
Veracious reader and fact finder

Weaknesses

Can come off as overbearing or aggressive
Too insensitive and selfish
Naïve, can be taken advantage of sometimes
Tends to be too critical of self and others
Worries too much
Stresses out people too much
Doesn't see the big picture sometimes
Believes they are always right
Can't see the humor in things sometimes

So what's wrong with being a perfectionist?

6 things wrong with being a perfectionist

- #1-Perfectionist tend to be very negative people.
- #2-They often see other people's flaws rather than intent
- #3- They tend to hurt or frustrate people's feelings.
- #4- They tend to love conditionally and not unconditionally
- #5-They tend to carry around a lot of guilt
- #6- They tend to be depressed frequently because they can never measure up to their own standards

Re-read the difference between being a perfectionist and being a person of excellence in the chapter "Are They All The Same Model?"

So how do you control perfectionism by seeking excellence?

1. Take perfectionism seriously.

"He who heeds discipline is shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads other astray." Prov. 10:11.

2. Make a conscience effort to go easy on criticizing yourself and others.

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Prov. 11:25.

"A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly." Prov. 14:29.

What about the “Lonely Only” child?

Only children get frustrated when they don't get their way, mainly because they don't believe it will be done right.

They fight depression because of the standards they set. They don't like criticism and they over commit themselves

Strength

Trust own opinion, not afraid to make decisions

Always does things right, very thorough

On top of things, usually on time

Ambitious, enterprising, energetic

Goal setter

Straight thinker who can be counted on

Reads a lot and is very data and fact driven

Weakness

May be self-centered because they were the center of their parents universe

Tends to criticize themselves and others, never satisfied, procrastinates

Worries too much, impatient

Puts themselves or others under stress

Misses the big picture sometimes

Believes they are always right

Too busy paying attention to facts and not the things that need to be done. Has hard time seeing the humor in things

▪ I never did get any respect- A look at the Middle Child

- *Middle children often feel ignored and left out.*
- *Middle children either antagonize or become a pleaser*
- *If they don't think they can “take on” the older sibling then they will branch off in a different direction*
- *Middle children usually are the ones in adulthood who live away from home area.*
- *Middle children can be a “mystery” and hard to figure out.*
- *They work hard at having lots of friends. Friends make them feel “special” where at home they often don't feel that way.*
- *They are more of a closed book rather than open book*
- *They are more independent and mentally tough*
- *They get embarrassed easily.*

Strength

Learned not to be spoiled

Relationships are important, friends

Willing to do things differently, willing to take risk

Knows how to get along, a good negotiator

Peacemaker, willing to work things out

Is very trustworthy, can be trusted with secret

Very sensitive

Weakness

May be rebellious because they feel like they don't fit in.

Friends can be too important thus they will often cloud their judgment so not to offend anyone

May appear bull-headed, stubborn

Can be seen as willing to have peace at any price thus can be taken advantage of

Hates confrontation, will often not share true feelings

May fail to admit mistakes because it's too embarrassing

Born Last but Seldom Least- A look at the baby of the family.

- *Last borns are charmers who have good people skills*
- *They live for praise and adoration*
- *They are not the greatest students but can be great leaders*
- *They usually have a great sense of humor*
- *They can be emotional time bombs (up and down emotionally)*
- *They have a tendency of a "I'll show them mentality"*

Strength

Likable, fun to be around, easy to talk to

Strong social skills and reads people well

Very persistent, won't take no for an answer

Caring, loving, loves to get strokes and give strokes

Appear relaxed, genuine, in control and trustworthy

Entertaining and funny, knows how to get your attention

Weakness

Manipulative, sometimes hard to believe

Comes across as undisciplined, talks too much

May push too hard because they think they are right

Likes to make decisions on feelings not facts, gullible

Can appear a little absent minded, lack of focus

May appear self-centered, unwilling to give others credit, has a BIG ego.