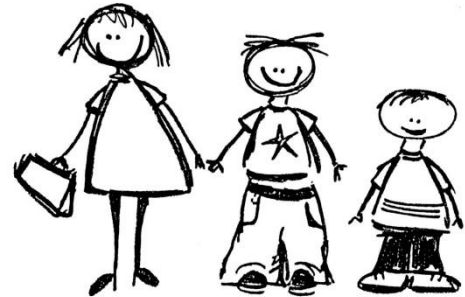


Birth Order & Parenting: Never Treat Them the Same

Tips for parenting the first born child:

1. Go easy on the perfectionist.
2. Take time to lay out the rules
3. Give some special privileges
4. Take time to go out alone
5. Don't make them an instant sitter
6. Don't pile on too many responsibilities
7. Be sensitive in criticizing
8. Realize a child care situation can teach them give-and-take with other children.



Tips for parenting the middle child:

1. Set aside talk times
2. Take extra care to make your middle child feel special
3. Set up some regular privileges he/she can count on—the middle child's exclusive territory
4. Have new clothing all their own
5. Listen
6. Keep up family photo album

Tips for parenting the younger child:

1. Be sure has fair share of responsibilities—avoid “too little” and helpless
2. Avoid referring to them as baby
3. Be sure they don't get away with murder
4. Recognize accomplishments
5. Introduce them to reading—often like to be read to instead of reading themselves
6. Crack down regarding school
7. Complete baby book

Tips for parenting the only child:

1. Realize a child care situation can teach them give-and-take with other children
2. Relax! There is no need to be more concerned about an only child than any other child.
3. Encourage individual pursuits at home. Make sure you have art materials, books, music and toys for exploration.
4. Take time to share in activities
5. Be patient if the child has trouble making friends at school. Help him/her solve problems with friends just like you would teaching any set of skills.

Adapted from The Birth Order Book, by Dr. Kevin Leman