

Advice for youngest children, aka "The Charming Rebels"

Typical traits: highly social, creative, laid-back, unconventional, dependent, manipulative

- **Stop playing the baby role:** No whining, complaining or trying to get your own way. "Think about the persona you project in an important business meeting and try out that side of you the next time you get together with your family," Stark says.
- **Don't take advantage of older siblings:** The youngest child in the family often enjoys a tremendous sense of security with so many older siblings to watch her back. As a result, she may come to rely on her family of "fixers" to right every problem she encounters. The next time your dishwasher breaks, call a repairman — not a handy older sibling.
- **Get the respect you crave:** Youngest children often get a lot of attention — but not a lot of respect. Older siblings tend to see them as charming rebels, affectionate and engaging but prone to manipulation.

Break out by acting like the grownup you are. "You were handed this birth order," Haskew says, "and you don't have to stay there."

Later borns: *Later borns are typically more popular, more gregarious, more socially*

orientated and judged to be more carefree, affectionate, and persuasive than firstborns.

Lastborns

Youngest children are not usually very responsible because they have not been given the opportunity. Parents can foster responsibility and self-reliance by giving even the youngest child some responsibility, such as setting the table or putting clean clothing in their dresser drawers.

If lastborns are being [bullied](#) by older siblings, parents need to step in. Children need help developing strategies for working out difficulties. They can also benefit from hearing parents tell older siblings that it took time for them to do the things that lastborns are struggling to do.

Youngest Child

- Behaves like only child.
- Feels every one bigger and more capable.
- Expects others to do things, make decisions, take responsibility.
- Feels smallest and weakest. May not be taken seriously.
- Becomes boss of family in getting service and own way.
- Develops feelings of inferiority or becomes "speeder" and overtakes older siblings.
- Remains "The Baby." Places others in service.
- If youngest of three, often allies with oldest child against middle child.

Birth Order: Youngest

Okay, so your parents have already had one or two children. By the time the youngest child takes his or her first steps, they may not even get out the video camera. For this reason, many "youngests" of the family crave the spotlight. They'll often work hard to be the center of attention or break the rules.

Here are some famous "rule-breaking" youngest children:

In 1530, the scientist Copernicus said that the earth revolves around the sun. This theory was the opposite of what most people thought back then. In fact, scientists who followed his work were punished for believing him.

Harriet Tubman's father taught her scouting, which means being able to find your way in nature. When she was thirty she escaped her brutal slave life by traveling alone, following the North Star from Maryland to Philadelphia. Her Underground Railroad freed an estimated 300 slaves.

We're glad that these youngests decided to go against the norm!

Send in the clowns: Often, youngest children love to make people laugh or take center stage. Many actors and comedians are the youngest children in their families.



Famous Youngests:

Men

Drew Carey
Jim Carey
Billy Crystal
Eddie Murphy

Women

Rosie O'Donnell
Whoopi Goldberg

Here are some personality traits that are common in youngest children:

Persistent: When it comes to a goal, many youngests just won't give up! **A Great Storyteller:** Whether it's true or not, youngest kids can spin a mighty good yarn. **Affectionate:** Youngest children often have plenty of hugs and kisses to give out.

Now, the downside. Although it's fun to be in the spotlight, many youngest children find that their parents don't give them a lot of attention or praise during important first-time events like tying a shoe or riding a bike.

If you're the youngest, these feelings may be familiar:

- "I have to work hard to get other people to pay attention to me!"
- "Nobody takes me seriously."
- "Everyone treats me like I'm younger than I am."

Remember: when treatment from a parent or sibling seems unfair and makes you feel bad in the long run, talk to someone about it.