

National  
Organization of  
Mothers  
Of  
Twins  
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT:

**PARTIES & PRESENTS SURVEY**

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1987-89

**PURPOSE:** Many questions confront parents, relatives and friends of multiples concerning presents and parties. The purpose of this questionnaire was to poll mothers of multiples concerning preferences and experiences regarding these subjects.

**METHOD:** A 24 item questionnaire was distributed through NOMOTC's membership during 1987-88. A total of 1,037 surveys were returned. The age range was 1 month to 65 years old; the majority being 5 or younger. Twin types were - Identical Girls (20%), Identical Boys (17%), Fraternal Girls (17%), Fraternal Boys (20%), Boy/Girl (22%), and Triplets (2%).

**RESULTS:**

- A. Gifts: Clothing and Toys (given to multiples)
1. Clothing (Mother's Choice)
    - a. 46% prefer twins to receive the same outfit/different colors
    - b. B/G and triplets had no preference
  2. Clothing (Multiple's Choice)
    - a. 55% will accept the same outfit
    - b. 40% will have no preference
    - c. 24% will wear matching outfits at same time
    - d. 11% will wear outfit at a different time
  3. Toys (Mother's Choice)
    - a. 38% prefer receiving completely different toy for each child
  4. Toys (Multiple's Choice)
    - a. 64% likely to accept different gifts and not be upset
    - b. 69% likely to accept same gifts and not be upset
- B. Buying Toys and Clothes for Multiples
1. Toys (Mother's Choice)
    - a. 26% prefer different, while 23% prefer the same
    - b. B/G and triplets' Moms most often chose different toys
    - c. F/B and I/B - Moms most often chose the same toys
  2. Clothes (Mother's Choice)
    - a. 37% had no consistent pattern
    - b. 30% favored same outfit but different colors
    - c. I/B and B/G favored completely different outfits
    - d. 17% dress singleton same as multiples
    - e. 69% dress singleton differently than multiples

- 3. Clothes (Multiple's Choice)
  - 53% wanted completely different outfits
- C. Gift Opening
  - 1. 54% open gifts at the same time
  - 2. 30% open gifts separately
  - 3. 43% of Mothers pass out gifts to be opened
  - 4. 41% let the multiples choose which gift to open
- D. Birthday Parties
  - 1. Invitations - 78% send one invitation from both twins
  - 2. Party - 69% have one party, but 25% have done both separate and one
  - 3. Cake - 35% prefer two or more cakes, while 39% have one cake
    - Many solved the problem by having cupcakes
  - 4. Singing - majority sang "Happy Birthday" once, followed by lighting the candles twice
  - 5. Gifts - 46% would expect one gift for each multiple, while 45% had no preference
  - 6. Friend's party - 65% would only send invited multiple to a party, while 8% would call and ask for other multiple to be invited
    - Majority would send one gift from each multiple to a party

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONCLUSION:**

Because the great majority of multiples in this study were under five, the results cannot be applied to all multiples. It is possible that over time, mothers' decisions would change as their children grew and developed.

From the variety of answers, it appears that mothers base their decisions not only on twin type, but their particular children and family situations.

Mothers are trying to maintain a balance between enjoying the benefits of sharing a birthday (same party, send one invitation, having one or similar cakes) while stressing the individuality of each child (choosing separate toys, different outfits, only sending the invited child to a party.)

Many suggested that if mothers or children have a distinct preference for same or different clothing/toys, family and friend should be informed of this prior to gift-giving.

The multiples in this survey seemed able to adapt to the various results stated with very little stress.

\*\*\*\*\*

The accompanying article for the RESEARCH REPORT can be found in the 1989 Fall Issue of *MOTC's Notebook*.