

National  
Organization of  
Mothers  
Of  
Twins  
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT:

**DISSIMILARITY OF SAME-SEX  
FRATERNAL TWINS**

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.

DATE:

1992

**PURPOSE:** This survey of same-sex fraternal twins was done to assess the needs of these multiples. Some areas explored were: What makes the twins different? Are they treated like identicals? Do they want to be treated like identicals?

**METHOD:** This survey was filled out by the mothers of SAME-SEX FRATERNAL TWINS ages 6 or older (5-year-olds attending kindergarten were also accepted.) The sample size was 139 responses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. 50% were fraternal boys and 50% were fraternal girls
2. A. 38% 5-7 years                      C. 8% 11-13 years                      E. 14% over 18 years  
B. 32% 8-10 years                      D. 7% 12-16 years

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

3. 50% had different hair color
4. 42% had different eye color
5. 45% had different heights
6. 49% had different weights
7. 70% had same handedness
8. 65% had same skin color
9. 35% had same blood type, while 50% did not know their blood type

SCHOOL ISSUES:

10. 50% of the twins performed equally well in schoolwork
11. 82% were separated in school and most by the third grade.  
A. 62% separated in Kindergarten                      B. 19% in the first/second grade
12. If twins were separated in school, 50% of their classmates did not know they were a twin.
13. 55% were equally accomplished in school.

HOW WERE THEY IDENTIFIED:

14. Were twins treated as a pair by moms?  
A. 2% all the time                      B. 31% some of the time                      C. 67% none of the time
15. Were the twins treated as a pair by relatives?  
A. 14% all the time                      B. 48% some of the time                      C. 36% none of the time

DRESSING MULTIPLES:

- 16. When were twins dressed alike?
  - A. 43% until age 4
  - B. 17% ages 5-7
  - C. 7% ages 8-10
  - D. 1% after age 10
- 17. 33% never dressed multiples alike.
- 18. 42% of moms said they dressed multiples alike so that people would notice them.
- 19. Some moms said the twins themselves wanted to dress alike.

DIFFERENCES:

- 20. Almost all of the moms felt that their twins were significantly different in personality.
- 21. 50% of moms thought twins were very different in social skills.
- 22. 28% considered the twins to be significantly different in intelligence.
- 23. 59% thought that they were very competitive.
- 24.
  - A. 25% of moms thought the difference in personality affected their twin relationship.
  - B. 15% of twins thought the difference in personality affected their twin relationship.
- 25.
  - A. 25% of the moms felt that the twins missed the special attention that identicals receive.
  - B. Only 3% of the twins felt that they missed something in the relationship because they were not identical.
- 26.
  - A. 16% of "Twin A's" tried to bring attention to the twin unit
  - B. 17% of "Twin B's" tried to bring attention to the twin unit
- 27.
  - A. 66%--both twins told people that they were twins
  - B. 5%--one twin told people that they were twins
  - C. 28%--neither twin told people that they were twins
- 28.
  - A. 59% of twins have rivalry between them that affected their relationship
  - B. 37% never had problems with rivalry

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**CONCLUSION:**

Fraternal twins are different in innumerable ways. They generally are not treated as identicals. They prefer to be treated as individuals.

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Many additional comments were written by members. These will appear in a future issue of MOTC's Notebook under the heading "Survey Comments."

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