

National

Organization of

Mothers

Of

Twins

Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT: BEING A SIBLING TO MULTIPLES

RESEARCHER:

NOMOTC

DATE:

March 1996 - September 1996

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to examine how siblings of multiples view their multiple siblings' relations to each other and how it affected the singleton siblings.

METHOD: A questionnaire was printed in *MOTC's Notebook* and a National Mailing. This survey was to be completed by siblings of multiple birth children who were eight years of age or older.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This survey was completed by 192 singletons. The ages of the multiples were: 8-11 years (48%); 12-15 years (22%); 16-19 years (8%); 20-25 years (4%); 26-39 years (14%); and 40 and older (4%). 58% of the siblings were females. The types of multiples were: identical twins (30%); fraternal twins (66%); and fraternal triplets (2%). 36% of the multiples were females; 33% were males; and 31% were boy/girl multiples.

41% of the respondents had no other siblings other than their multiple siblings; 17% had an older sibling; 33% had a younger sibling; and 9% had both an older and a younger sibling. 86% were older than their multiple siblings.

RESULTS:

1. 26% of the siblings felt proud most of the time about having multiple siblings; 17% were happy about it; 11% had no feelings either way; 34% said it depended on the situation (sometimes happy, sometimes not); 12% said they felt no different about them than their singleton siblings and friends; and 0.5% were unhappy.
2. 96% can always tell the multiples apart, while 4% can sometimes tell them apart.
3. 66% of the siblings felt that the multiples were treated just like everyone else. 25% said the multiples were occasionally given special privileges just because they were multiples; 7% said they were given special privileges most of the time; and 2% said they were occasionally denied privileges. The multiple siblings were treated differently by parents (57%), grandparents (28%) and teachers (16%).
4. 66% said they had to help out more at home because of the multiples.
5. 98% of their mothers participated in a Mothers of Twins Club. 85% said they were included in MOTC family activities.
6. 62% said they had mostly separate friends from the multiples; 30% had some the same and some different; and 8% said they had mostly the same friends. 13% said they often felt left out when the multiples were at home, and 16% felt left out when the multiples were with their friends.
7. 40% thought they looked a lot like their multiple siblings, and 30% thought that sometimes they looked alike.

- 8. 25% of their teachers thought they looked like their multiple siblings. 5% of the teachers often compared their academic performance to their multiple siblings, and 11% sometimes compared them.
- 9. 10% of the siblings tried to dress like their multiple siblings.
- 10. 62% said that having multiple siblings occasionally brought them special attention, and 8% said it always brought them special attention. 18% did not like this extra attention.
- 11. When asked if they got along with their multiple siblings, 48% said sometimes yes and sometimes no; 37% said yes; 13% said they got along better with one sibling than the other, and 2% said no.
- 12. 82% said they were close to their multiple siblings; 9% said yes, but not at first; 6% said no; and 3% said no, but they use to be close.
- 13. 51% of the siblings said they did things together a lot with the multiples; 45% said they sometimes did things together, and 4% said they did not do things together.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Most of the respondents liked their multiple siblings and enjoyed the special attention the multiples brought to them.
- 2. Two-thirds of the siblings thought the multiples were treated just like everyone else. If the multiples were treated differently, the ones who did so were usually their parents (They were sometimes given special privileges because they were multiples).
- 3. Two-thirds of the siblings had to help out more at home because of the multiples.
- 4. Occasionally their teachers compared their academic performance to that of their multiple siblings.
- 5. Almost 90% of the siblings said they were close to the multiples. Most of the respondents said they got along with their multiple siblings, however 13% said they got along better with one multiple than the other.

NOTE: THE COMPANION SURVEY, "BEING A MULTIPLE," IS SUMMARIZED IN RESEARCH REPORT #50.