

National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.

SUBJECT:
RESEARCHER:

AFFECTS OF BIRTH ORDER ON DEVELOPMENT

Michelle Propp

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to examine the influences of birth order and parental perceptions on development.

METHOD: A self-report survey was used to gather data from parents of 3 to 7-year-old twins.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The parents of 50 sets of identical and fraternal twins completed the survey.

RESULTS

1. Among fraternal twins, both same-sexed and opposite-sexed , the first-born was slightly more likely to roll over, crawl and walk first, while the second-born was slightly more likely to talk first.
2. Among identical twins, the first-born was slightly more likely to crawl first and the second-born was slightly more likely to roll over, walk and run first.
3. Among fraternal opposite-sexed twins, the female twin, regardless of birth order had a high likelihood of achieving all milestones first.
4. Parents were more likely to describe their first born twin as the “leader” and the second born twin as the “follower”.