

National Organization of Mothers Of Twins Clubs, Inc.	SUBJECT:  RESEARCHER:  DATE:	<b>MULTIPLES WITHIN BLENDED FAMILIES</b>  National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.  May 2009-January 2010
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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this survey is to examine some of the factors that affect family dynamics when multiples are brought into or born into families as step siblings or half siblings

**METHOD:** A survey consisting of 40 questions was distributed in a National Mailing and issued through SurveyMonkey.com. The survey was to be completed by a parent or step parent of multiples who is married or living together and who also have children from other relationships.

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Ninety-one surveys consisting of 40 questions were received with 95.6 % having twins, 2.2 % had triplets, 2.2 % had two sets of twins and 2.2 % had twins and were expecting triplets.
2. The parent filling out the survey was designated as Parent A and Parent B was the spouse/partner.
3. Thirty-two percent of the multiples were born to Parent A, 3.3 % were born to Parent B, while 62.2 % were born to both Parent A and Parent B and 2.2 % were adopted.
4. Identical multiples made up 25.3 % of the group, while 62.6 % were fraternal and 13.2 % were unknown.
5. The majority of the multiples 72.5 % were between the ages of 0-2, 12.1 % were between 3-5 years, 7.7 % were between 6-8 years, 5.5 % were between 9-11 years, while 1.1 % fell into the 12-14, 15-18 and 19 and older categories and 2.2 % were pregnant.

### RESULTS

1. Twenty-eight percent of the respondents had one other child, 32.6 % had 2 other children, 19.1 % had 3, 11.2 % had 4, 5.6 % had 5, 1.1 % had 6, and 2.2 % had 7 or more other children.
2. In response to the number of children residing with them for over half the year 10.8 % reported 1, 24.1 % 2, 27.7 % 3, 22.9 % 4, 7.2 % 5, 4.8 % 6 and 2.4 % had 7 or more living with them.
3. Forty-four percent reported they had 1 child living with them for less than half the year, while 31.1 % had 2, 17.8 % 3, 4.4 % 5, and 2.2 % had 6 other children living with them.
4. An overwhelming majority (98.6 %) reported their household as the primary residence of the multiples.
5. The multiples were the youngest children in 88 % of the households, 6.7 % were the oldest and 5.3 % had both older and younger siblings.
6. Over half ( 51.5 %) of the children knew one another for over a year prior to the marriage or moving in, 15.2 % for 7- 12 months, 19.7 % for 3-6 months and 13.6 % knew each other for less than 3 months.
7. Thirty-two percent of the families initially resided in the home of Parent A, 26.4 % in the home of Parent B and 41.7 % in a home new to both parents.
8. It was reported that 13.3 % now live in the home of Parent A, 20 % in the home of Parent B and 66.7 % in a home new to both parents.
9. Most multiples (67.3 %) shared a room prior to the families blending.
10. The majority (87.9 %) of multiples shared a room after the blending.
11. A large number of multiples (67.4 %) got along very well with their siblings from the beginning of the blending, 23.3 % got along good, while 4.7 % got along fair and 4.7 % got along poorly.
12. The small number of multiples that didn't get along with their siblings initially included 7.9 % with half-sister, 5.3 % didn't get along with either a step-sister, step brother, or each other, while 2.6 % didn't get along with a half-brother or brother.
13. Over half (57.8 % ) of the multiples currently get along very well with their siblings, while 6.7 % get along fair and none reported poor relationships.
14. In families where a conflict existed 13.9 % felt it was because of the blending while 11.1 % felt it was just normal development issues.
15. Those that still don't get along with siblings continue to follow the same group lines, 5.4 % each for step brother, half brother and each other and 2.7 % for sister, brother and half sister.

16. In regards to which parent did the majority of the discipline the results were very evenly spread with each parent disciplining their own at 28.6 %, both parents at 23.8 %, Parent A 28.6 %, Parent B 11.9 % and 7% of children were too young to discipline.
17. As time passed the handling of discipline has changed with over half (58.1 %) being done by both parents equally, 14 % done by Parent A, 4.7 % by Parent B while 16.3 % disciplined their own children.
18. Many parents (64.5 %) felt that the multiples handled the blending about the same as the other children while 25.8 % felt the multiple acted in a more positive manner, 3.2 % felt they acted in a more negative manner, and 6.5 % felt some were negative and some were positive.

## CONCLUSION

1. Parenting is a challenge for anyone but parents in a blended family face even more difficult obstacles trying to parent children that are not born to them.
2. Positive progress in the relationships between multiples and their siblings continues as time passes.
3. There are two major issues attention from parents and different family habits or routines, are the cause of most conflicts.
4. Most parents felt the multiples handled the blending about the same as the other children.
5. The majority of the families did not receive any counseling to help them with the blending or developmental issues.
6. Over half the respondents felt that more Notebook Articles or pamphlets on the subject of blending would be of help to them.