

- 1> Match the words (1–3) with the definitions (a–c). Then do a class survey to find out how many people belong to each category.

- 1 Firstborns ☐
 2 Middle-borns ☐
 3 Last-borns ☐

- a the children who are born as the youngest in the family _____
 b the children who are the oldest kids in the family _____
 c the children who are not born as the first or the last in the family _____

- 2> Work in pairs. Complete the questions with the correct words in the box. Then answer the questions.

only children birth order siblings

Have you got any
 1 _____?

No

Do you agree that 2 _____ are always badly spoilt by their parents? Why do you think so?

Yes

Do you agree that 3 _____ can affect your future? Why do you think so?

- 3> **EXAM TASK** Przeczytaj tekst. Do każdej części tekstu (1–5) dobierz właściwy nagłówek (A–F).

Uwaga: jeden nagłówek został podany dodatkowo i nie pasuje do żadnej części tekstu.

- A Does the birth order theory work for everyone? D What are the advantages of each birth position?
 B Are there any negative aspects of each birth position? E What advice would you give?
 C What is your own birth position in the family? F How can birth order affect your adult life?

BIRTH ORDER

While fifty-two per cent of all American presidents have been firstborns, only four of them were the family's youngest kids. Does future success depend on your position in the family? We asked our teen expert Karen Moore (17) from Cardiff, who did a school project on the birth order theory, to answer a few questions.

1 ☐ Scientists who analyse birth order believe that your birth position changes the way you deal with day-to-day problems in your childhood. When you become an adult, it is possible that you will make your life decisions in a similar way.

2 ☐ A very positive aspect of being a firstborn (or an only child) is that from the very beginning you get one hundred per cent of your parents' attention. That gives you the confidence to dream, plan and naturally develop a very strong motivation to succeed. Middle-borns, on the other hand, are excellent negotiators and know how to compromise and resolve conflicts. It helps them communicate with others easily and they usually make very good, loyal friends. As for the youngest in the family, they often have a charming personality and are very popular with people. Last-borns are fun to be with – cheerful, sweet and carefree.

3 ☐ Obviously, there are some disadvantages. Last-borns can be spoilt, messy and not responsible enough. Middle-borns, in turn, often have the impression that their family and people around don't look up to them. It doesn't have to be true but they

may feel worse than others as a result. For firstborns, the biggest drawback is their high ambition. They usually work too hard under a lot of stress and pressure.

4 ☐ If you're a firstborn, don't get involved in too many things at a time. Learn to prioritise and make more time to enjoy life. You don't have to be perfect to be happy. Middle-borns shouldn't compare themselves to others. They should learn to believe they can make great leaders with their superb communication skills. As a last-born, don't be afraid to take responsibility for your actions and respect other people's needs – they want your care and attention just as much as you want theirs.

5 ☐ Because each person is different, you can't say the situation is exactly the same for all the people. Psychologists can only show some tendencies. Birth order is never the only cause of your future success – it is one of many factors which shape your future. Your personality, physical strength, your family size and its social and economic situation all play a role. Treat your birth position as a special gift. Learn how to make the most of it to be happy in life.

- 4> Work in groups. Chose one of the topics and exchange your ideas. Then present them to the class. The most useful set of tips wins.

5 TIPS FOR BIG BROTHERS – how to get on with your younger siblings
 5 TIPS FOR LITTLE SISTERS – how to get on with your older siblings
 5 TIPS FOR ONLY CHILDREN – how to get on with your cousins