

# [Introduction later voted out over disagreements with freud](https://assignbuster.com/introduction-later-voted-out-over-disagreements-with-freud/)

Introduction” AlfredAdler, the founding father of Individual Psychology was one of the firsttheorists to suggest that birth order influences personality”( Gustafson, 2010).  As what is expected of the oldestis different than the middle or youngest child. Adler started with this idea onbirth order and others have continued down this path of research.  “ Having lived through WWI, Serving as aphysician, with the Austrian Army at the Russian front, and then in achildren’s hospital” (Adler, 2014). He was in a unique position to study people specificallychildren in the aftermath of war.

Biography portion” Alfred Adler (1870 -1937) was born in Penzing, Austria, the 2nd son of a Jewish grainmerchant.  In poor health as a child, hedid not walk until age four because of rickets; at age five Adler developedpneumonia and was a close call for him, “(Adler. 2014). This was only a few ofhis childhood struggles. “ In 1895 he received his medical degree from theUniversity of Vienna” (Schultz, 2011, p330).   “ Hespecialized in ophthalmology and practiced general medicine. When he becameinterested in psychiatry in 1902, he joined Sigmund Freud’s weekly discussiongroup on psychoanalysis, one of four charter members” (Schultz, 2011, p330).   He was the first president of Freud’s ViennaPsychoanalytic Society, but was later voted out over disagreements with Freudsingle minded focus on the male sex organ or the lack one depending on client’sgender.

“ In 1911, Adler split with Freudto form his own group, several other members of the Freudian school left with him, due to this breakup he is considered the first proponent of psychoanalysis” (Schultz, 2011, p330). The following year, in1912, he published The Neurotic Constitution, where he coined the term” Individual psychology”” Heproposed the concept of social interest, defined as an innate potential tocooperate with others to achieve personal and societal goals. Our socialinterest develops in infancy through learning experiences” (Schultz, 2011, p330).  Focused on conscious not theunconscious, Adler believed we are more strongly affected by our plans for thefuture. Striving for goals or anticipating coming events can influence presentbehavior” (Schultz, 2011, p331).  “ He proposed ageneralized feeling of Inferiority as a motivating force in behavior, forexample; a child who stutters may, through conscientious speech therapy, becomea great orator; a child with weak limbs may, through intensive exercise, excelas an athlete or dancer” (Schultz, 2011, p331).

“ Inexamining his patients’ childhood years, Adler became interested in therelationship between personality and birth order. He found that the oldest, middle, and youngest children, because of their positions in the family, havevarying social experiences that result in different attitudes toward life anddifferent ways of coping” (Schultz, 2011, p332).” Adler (as citedin Ansbacher Ansbacher, 1956) stressed the goldenrule of Individual Psychology: Everything can be different” ( Watts, 2010).   “ Similarly, birth-orderpersonality implications are not one size fits all” ( Watts, 2010).   “ Instead, they are important tools that, when coupled with such other developmentalissues as gender, family values, ethnicity, and community values, help providean environmental context to a client’s subjective understanding of the world” (Watts, 2010).  “ Additional factors suchas death or impairment of a sibling, blended families, a large agegap between siblings, and differential familial and cultural norms mayinfluence expectations of siblings differentially” ( Watts, 2010).  Unfortunate that is too large of a body ofresearch to cover in the paper.

Psychologist workdescriptionThe First born is the default leader inthe eyes of the parents which translates into the mindset of the children inthe family. Which in turn influences the devolvement of the child’s by changingwhat is expected of them,” They are stereotypically thought to be serious, conscientious, directive, goal oriented, aggressive, rule conscious, responsible, jealous, high achieving, competitive, and high in self-esteem”(Alfred, nd ).  “ A Firstborn’s can havefeelings of a fear of being dethroned may make them less likely to engage inrisky behavior,” (Alfred, nd). Any siblings added to the family changes thedynamic and priorities of the parents, for the Firstborn it means sharing theattention with any other and how they cope with that feel having an effect onthem.

“ Firstborns try to please theirparents by acting as surrogate parents for their siblings, a behavior that canincrease conscientiousness” (Rohrer, 2015).  “ The middle children often have the sense ofnot belonging. They feel they have to fight to receive attention from othersbecause they feel many times they’re invisible at times to the rest of theworld” (Alfred, nd ).   “ They tend to have fewer pictures in of themin the house, compared to firstborns. The middle child can feel insecure thisin turn can affect their relationships throughout their life” (Alfred, nd ).

“ Not surprisingly, Adler stressed thatsecond-born children make the best counselors; as he was one himself.  Not only do they have the opportunity toobserve and profit from mistakes thefirst-born children make, but they also can learn compassion forothers by themselves initially being in a “ second place-acttwo slot” coming into the world” (Ansbacher, 1992).” One study of 700 brothers who playedmajor league baseball found that younger brothers were 10 times more likely tosteal bases than their older brothers and were also superior in overall battingsuccess. This and other studies also showed that younger siblings were far morelikely to participate in high-risk activities such as skydiving (Sulloway &Zweigenhaft, 2010)” (Schultz, 2011, p332). “ Adler (as cited in Ansbacher & Ansbacher) emphasized the importanceof psychological birth order, it’s not when they are born, but what are theyborn into and the way in which the kidsinterprets it,” (Ansbacher, , 1956, p.

377). “ An only child may experience difficultiesin adjusting to the world outside the family, where he or she is not the centerof attention” (Schultz, 2011, p332).  Onlychildren are stereotypically seen as spoiled and the center of attention, notalways. They share some traits with both youngest and oldest as there is nocompetition for affection from family and care givers. Though the “ Research does not supportAdler’s view that only children are more selfish and have difficulty adjustingto the real world”(Schultz, 2011, p332). Humans are in part aproduct of our environment that we’re raised in and adding to the family is achance in the environment, we must cope and change to move forward.

While birthorder does not define us, it can impact us. Psychology is about the greaterunderstanding of human behavior.  Everypsychologist has their contribution to give, not everyone gets their fair shareof credit as Alfred Adler was shorted a few times; “ Although many of Adler’s ideas have become widely accepted, hispublic acclaim declined after his death and he has received relatively littlecredit for his contributions. Many concepts have been plagiarized. For example, the London Times obituary for Sigmund Freud, gave Freud credit for term ‘ inferioritycomplex’.

When Carl Jung died, The New York Times reported that Jung had coinedthe term! Neither paper mentioned Adler” (Schultz, 2011, p334).  Still, he’s remembered as one of the bigmodern influences on psychology with William James, Sigmund Freund and CarlJung.