

(For family circle type magazine)

How to Grow up in a Large Family

There are a number of rules to follow when growing to manhood or womanhood in a large family. These are not always possible, but we will mention them just the same.

1. Try to be Born first.

There are a number of advantages to being the first child. I won't mention the disadvantages. These are:

a. You never have to wear hand-me-downs because nobody is bigger than you so you have to wear their cast-offs.

b. Your word is the law. (I mean with the younger children.) You can always say: "I'M the biggest, aint I?" And back it up with a couple of fists, brother. It works.

c. You always look bigger to your parents by comparison with the younger kids. Therefore, you usually get to drive the car at an earlier age, stay out later at night, and generally do as you please. By the side of ten-year-old Jimmy, you look like a giant at 16.

d. You get to do everything first. Nobody else graduated from the eighth grade ahead of you, so you don't have to try for top honors. You make a place for yourself without ~~worry~~ worrying about holding up a family tradition.

e. You leave home first. When you're a big shot freshman in college, you can strut home and lord it over everybody, including your old-fashioned mom.

2 If you can't be Born first, do the best with whatever position you play--I mean hold. For instance you have a certain amount of prestige if you are the prettiest, the ugliest, have red hair, a long nose, big ears, or big feet. And there is always something special about being the first boy. Even if you're sixth from top. You can really play those older sisters for suckers if you don't let them get the upper hand. When you are three years old, put you foot down about being called "brother." Brother, don't stand for it. The least they can do is call you "junior." Here are the advantages of being a first boy:

- a. a. You won't ever have to wash dishes, because older sisters always do the dishes.
- b. You can have a load of fun poking fun at all the silly things girls do, ~~like~~ such as writing diaries, primping for boy friends, real or imagined, playing with dolls, reading love stories, and just plain mush.
- c. On housecleaning day, you can go dig a can of worms and go fishing.
- d. Mom doesn't care if you go barefoot, although the girls don't dare.
- e. You can keep handy little gadgets in your room for scaring the girls such as toads, lizards (rubber ones), and little green snakes.
- f. Most of all, you are your dad's favorite child--take advantage of it. ^{One} ~~Another~~ man will always stick up for ~~you~~ another.
- g. Older sisters come in handy when its time to learn to tie a four-in-hand, work a long-division problem, or sew a button on in a hurry. Make use of them--don't let them get you in a corner.

3. But you say, "Suppose I am the youngest?" Well, that's easy. First of all:

a. Develop a personality of your own. It should be something radically different from all the older children so as to draw attention to yourself in a stiff competition. It is suggested you start at an early age for this, perhaps when still in the cradle.

(1) Knowing that your sister cried all day and slept all night, you must do the opposite.

(2) At Christmas time, instead of asking what Santa is to bring you, ask what Santa wants for Christmas. That get's them.

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