

1 **Work in small groups.**

Discuss the questions.

3 **Read the article again.**

Which children are usually

2 **Read the article quickly. Which**

paragraph (1-4) mentions

1 Do you think it's better to be the older or the younger sister or brother in a family with two children? Why?

2 Does a child's position in the family have an influence on his / her personality?

a the youngest children?

b the children who have to look after their younger brothers and sisters?

c Tom Hughes?

d the only children?

e the most competitive children?

1 independent and sociable?

2 charming and affectionate?

3 quite self-confident and ambitious?

4 very organised and responsible?

WHAT (1) In his book about the

family's influence on a personality the British psychologist Tom Hughes tells that our position in the family is the strongest factor that influences our personality.

(2) On his opinion, the oldest children get maximum attention from their parents, and the result is that they're usually quite self-confident people. They make good leaders. For example, the famous Prime Minister Winston Churchill was a firstborn child. The oldest children are often ambitious. They're more likely to go to university than their brothers or sisters. They often get the top jobs, too. They are also responsible people, because

they often have to look after their younger brothers or sisters. The downside of this is that sometimes this means

AFFECTS OUR PERSONALITY?

that when they're older they worry a lot about things. They can also be quite bossy and even aggressive, especially when they don't get what they want.

(3) The middle children are usually independent and competitive. It's because they have to fight with their brothers and sisters for their parents' attention. And they're usually sociable, they like being with people, probably because they have always had other children to play with. However, on the negative side, the middle children are often jealous of their brothers and sisters and they can be moody.

(4) If a child is the youngest in the family, he or she will probably be very charming, affectionate and quite relaxed. On the other hand, the quite lazy. This is because they always have their older brothers and sisters to help them. And they can be quite manipulative — they use their charm to get what they want.

(5) The only children in the family don't have to share with anyone — so they're often spoilt by their parents and their grandparents. As a result, they can be quite selfish. They think of themselves more than of other people. On the positive side, the only children are usually very organised and responsible, and they can be very imaginative, too.

