


WHAT'S YOUR BIRTH ORDER?*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

 **Time:** 20-30 minutes

 **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Look at differences in a non-threatening way.
- Form groups with others with whom they might not usually be grouped.

 **Materials:**

- Newsprint
- Markers

 **Preparation:** None

Instructions

1. Ask participants to group themselves by birth order: First born, middle child, last born, or only child. Let participants decide where they belong, if there is some question (e.g., a child whose next sibling is 10 years or more younger than themselves might feel like s/he belongs in the youngest category.)
2. Have each group select a recorder/reporter. Distribute newsprint and markers. Instruct them in their groups to list the pros and the cons of being in that particular birth order. Give them several minutes. If any participants are the only representative of a type, check in with them frequently so that they don't feel isolated.
3. Have each reporter report back to full group. Invite groups to give feedback to one another. What did you learn about each other? About yourselves? How can this (does this) impact working together?

Note: While some friendly competition can be fun, if any groups are too concerned with proving they're the "best," remind them that all have their pros and their cons and that this is, after all, nothing more than chance.

* This module is part of the online toolkit Building Blocks to Peer Success. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from the Lotus Women's Peer Education Training Manual, Center for Health Training and Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Diseases (WORLD), 2008.