

The following quotation (Dreikurs & Cassel, 1972) serves as an excellent summary and demonstrates the tremendous influence exerted by the family atmosphere:

“If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with fear, he learns to be apprehensive.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident

If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.

If a child lives with recognition, he learns it is good to have a goal.

If a child lives with honesty, he learns what the truth is.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and those about him.

If a child lives with friendliness, he learns the world is a nice place in which to live, to love, and be love” (pp. 28-29).

6. Birth Order

A different approach to understanding a child’s behavior is through a study of the family birth order. Manaster and Corsini (1982)