

Course Outline for Disrupting Birth Order

- There are no hard and fast rules in adoption, including whether or not to adopt out of birth order.
- Sibling rivalry when the birth order is disrupted when adopting an older child.
- How to handle aggressive behavior with a child is adopted and becomes the eldest displacing the former child who was the eldest.
- Similarities between families that have a blend of children by adoption and birth and families with blended children from divorce and remarriage.
- Techniques for easing the transition for all the children in a family when the birth order is changed by the adoption.
- Major predictors of an adoption disruption.
- How to help prepare children for the adoption of a sibling, especially in the adoption of an older child.
- Adopting age child of a similar (within about 9 months) of a child already in the family, also known as virtual Twinning or artificial twinning.
- How to minimize the difficulties with virtual twinning or creating artificial twins.
- What age child is least affected by having his birth order disrupted?
- What age child is most disrupted by having his birth order changed?
- What age gap is best between children when disrupting birth order?
- What parenting techniques can help a family successful adopt out of birth order?
- Is it best to disrupt the birth order of the eldest or the youngest in a family?
- Seeking help is a sign of parental strength.
- What type of therapist should families find to help them post adoption when they find they are struggling with an older child adoption?
- How to handle the situation when the adopted child is older in age but younger on an emotional and behavioral level?
- What type of therapist is best able to work with families who have changed their birth order after adoption?
- Adopting a child who has been sexually abused.
- How to tell the difference between general sexual curiosity and behavior that is the result of sexual abuse.
- What type of sleeping arrangements should parents use the first couple of months home when they are adopting a child who is older than other children in the family?
- When combining children by birth and adoption is it better for the adopted child to be the eldest, the youngest, or in the middle?
- What are the warning signs that parents need to get help with an adoption that is out of birth order?

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*[Arleta James](#) . *Brothers and Sisters in Adoption: Helping Children Navigate Relationships When New Kids Join the Family*. 2012

*[Jeffrey Kluger](#). *The Sibling Effect: What the Bonds Among Brothers and Sisters Reveal About Us*. 2012

*[Susan Krauss Whitbourne Ph.D.](#) *Is Birth Order Destiny?* Psychology Today. May 18, 2013
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/fulfillment-any-age/201305/is-birth-order-destiny>