

THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BIRTH ORDER, PARENTAL ATTENTION, AND  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between birth order, parental attention, and academic achievement among students in Faculty of Education, UiTM Shah Alam. Henceforth, the objective of this study is to compare the academic achievement between people of different birth order, to compare the parental attention between people of different birth order, to examine the relationship between birth order and academic achievement, and to examine the relationship between birth order and parental attention. The basic research design for this study is Correlational Research. The target population of this study is TESL students in Faculty of Education, UiTM Shah Alam. The finding suggest that firstly, among all of the birth order group the only child had the highest mean CGPA score, followed by the eldest child, the last child, the middle child, and lastly the second child. However, one-way ANOVA test suggests that there are no significance differences of mean CGPA between the groups. Secondly, it was found that the last child had the highest mean parental attention score, followed by the eldest child, the only child, the middle child, and the second child. However, one-way ANOVA again suggest that there are no significance differences of mean parental attention score between the groups. Thirdly, it was found that there is a weak negative relationship between birth order and academic achievement. Fourthly, it was found that there is little or no association between birth order and parental attention.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

Birth order is defined as an individual's rank among their siblings that is determined by his or her age (Adler, 1956). To many people, birth order sound unimportant and people rarely think birth order would influence things in their daily lives. However, among scientists and scholarly especially in the West, birth order is a much discussed subject and there have been many research done in order to investigate the birth order effect on people's lives. Birth order for example is said to give effect on personality, parental attention, academic achievement, career success and many more. According to Alfred Adler, the founder of Adlerian Therapy, a person's birth order would determine the parental attention that they will get in which; the parents would