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Monday's child is fair of face and Tuesday's child is full of grace but what about the Aries child or Taurus child? Find out in our special guide to your child's astrological characteristics



21 Mar - 20 Apr

Fasten your seat belt - you're in for a wild ride. The Aries child is a real go-getter. A dynamic bundle of energy and enthusiasm, they are always on the look out for the next adventure. An early crawler or early walker, you won't have to convince this child to try new things. They display a strong will of their own from an early age and have a determination when it comes to getting their own way. Naturally drawn to explore uncharted territory, they love the prospect of a challenge. Usually found at the forefront of playground activities, they have a natural assertiveness. They're never shy about coming forward and have a real desire to be first. Encourage their innate leadership abilities but teach them that "might does not make right", especially when playing with other children. You will need eyes in the back of your head with these children - high energy levels mean they are never still for long.

Astro tips

*They need plenty of freedom. They won't like boundaries, playpens, gates or fences. Give them brightly-coloured action toys. Encourage their involvement in interactive activities, games and sports. This will keep their interest and help them to learn to master their impatience.

Your Taurus child

21 Apr - 21 May

The Taurus child is the security lover of the zodiac. These children form habits

easily and are loathe to change them. To the little Taurean, predictability means security. They thrive on constancy so surround them with familiar symbols of safety and stability. These are the children who get extremely attached to a favourite toy or blanket and are devastated at its loss. Exhibiting pronounced likes and dislikes from an early age, they don't take too kindly to changes in routine. Encourage them to par-

ticipate in and feel safe with gradual change. Taurean children can be possessive and need to be gently taught to share their toys with siblings and friends. They won't like competitive games but do enjoy being outside in nature. They love pretty colours and music and are very responsive to smells and tastes. A tendency to put on weight more easily than other signs combined with an attraction to junk foods, especially sweets, means they do need to be encouraged to develop good eating habits from an early age.

Astro tips

*Encourage your Taurean child to participate in games and activities that involve sharing and cooperation. This will help them overcome their tendency to be possessive or even territorial. Don't rush your Taurean child - they do best when allowed to move and progress at their own pace.

Your Gemini child

22 May-21 Jun

The loveable imp of the zodiac, your Gemini child has a talent for getting into

mischief or tight spots without even trying. Mentally alert and active, with an insatiable curiosity for anything new, they will blossom in a stimulating environment. Provide this child with plenty of mental stimuli and variety. Without it, they can become bored or fractious. They can easily give their attention to diverse activities but do need to be encouraged to complete things. Your Gemini child is likely to be an early talker and an early reader. Often born with the gift of the gab, they can usually talk themselves out of any awkward

situation as well as always managing to have the last word. They have quick minds, a sense of humour and are born mimics. Watch what you say around this child. Not only do they hear everything that is said but they have the knack of repeating what they've heard at the most inopportune and usually embarrassing times.

Astro tips

*Trikes and scooters will be favourites. These kids easily distracted so provide them with colourful toys, puzzles and games that have a wide range of uses. They enjoy books hence the bedtime story can be the best part of the day.





With astrologer Franchelle Ofsoské-Wyber



Your Cancer child

22 Jun - 23 Jul

Your Cancer child is the sensitive one of the zodiac. They are very emotional as well as incredibly sensitive to the environment. From birth, they find loud noises, disharmony or threatening experiences difficult to cope with. Consequently the home environment needs to be calm and constant for these gentle souls to feel safe and nurtured. The Cancerian child can be a bit of a homebody. They usually like to stay close to Mum and may cling to your legs or skirt when confronted with strange people. These children often shyly hang back from new experiences. They mustn't be pushed. They will venture out when it feels safe and when they are ready. They will be naturally interested in cooking, food and household tasks. Give them plenty of opportunity to help with baking tasks - they will positively light up. They are kind and caring children who love to look after things. Let them enjoy helping with the younger ones in the family.

Astro tips

*Give them toys that they can look after – or a kitten or goldfish. These children are easily hurt by criticism so they need to have constant reassurance. They enjoy strong family ties and can't have too many cuddles or be shown too much love.

Your Leo child

24 Jul - 23 Aug

The Leo child is the self appointed king or queen of the zodiac. This child will not enjoy taking a back seat. They are happiest when centre stage and the focus of your adoring attention. These children are born show-offs. Normally possessing a sunny disposition, they are confident and generous in nature. Expect your Leo child to be very demanding, even though they are charming and enthusiastic. Their optimistic and buoyant demeanour will always place them at the hub of the playgroup, classroom or local group of kids. Usually accompanied by a retinue of admirers, they will excel in this role as long as they are in charge. Gently help them to understand that others have rights too. Create situations where they can shine, making sure you give them the necessary recognition for their efforts and successes. Equip them with some entertaining skills. Dancing, playing a musical instrument, voice or acting lessons are creative outlets through which they can express their natural flair and style.







Your Virgo child

24 Aug - 23 Sep

The Virgo child is the perfectionist of the zodiac. They are highly sensitive and will hate having a dirty face, sticky fingers or soiled nappies. Natural foods and products are more suited to them as they are often allergic to certain foods, soap powders and additives. Shy, unassuming and serious, these children set high standards for themselves. They have exceedingly quick observant minds so give them a chance to demonstrate their knowledge. Virgo children want to help and like to be useful. These kids try very hard to please. They take things very personally and are crushed by any form of criticism. Praise them and focus on their positive achievements. A weekly or daily reward system works well. They thrive on routine and don't like sudden surprises. Let them know in advance if you are introducing changes to their daily schedule. Virgo children of all ages love to learn and are inveterate book worms. You'll find them with their nose happily stuck in a book for hours on end.

Astro tips

*Young Virgos have a hidden belief that they're not good enough. Give them quality time, appreciation and unconditional acceptance. They enjoy activities that require a high degree of manual dexterity. Encourage older children to write creatively or to speak publicly.



Your Pisces child

20 Feb - 20 Mar

The Pisces child is the dreamer of the zodiac. They are gentle and sensitive with an other-worldly air about them. These children have a loving quality about them. Pisces children have a pronounced impressionability along with a highly emotional nature. Consequently they can easily be affected by television, video, movie and story book content. If your Piscean child is experiencing nightmares,

it may be necessary to carefully monitor what they are being exposed to. These children do well in a peaceful and tranquil environment. They find disharmony, particularly in the home, very difficult to deal with. These children do not cope that well with the rough and tumble of the playground. They are naturally shy, often seeming to live in their own world. You won't see them pushing themselves forward voluntarily - they prefer to stay in the background until they gain confidence. They enjoy solitude and will benefit from a calm and pleasant environment. Soft gentle music, walks near the sea and baths will always restore their sense of inner peace.

Astro tips

*Piscean children love dressing up and make-believe games. Painting, drawing, art and drama lessons help them express their feelings. Give them a pet to look after and love. Talk to your Pisces child about angels - they really do believe in them.

Your Aquarius child

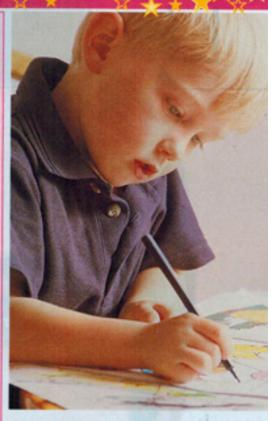
21 Jan - 19 Feb

The Aquarian child is the free spirit of the zodiac. As babies, they need plenty of human contact but lots of room to move. Maintaining a loose yet flexible routine will best suit them. Although the Aquarian child is open and friendly, they can appear to be aloof. Don't be fooled - they have a big heart. These are the children who bring home the waifs and strays of the animal, insect or bird kingdoms. From the outset, they invariably attract lots of friends and like a busy social life. Attracted to the different and offbeat, you never know who or what this child will bring home. Highly intelligent and constantly seeking the unusual, these children really do march to a different drummer. They possess a zany sense of humour and have an unconventional outlook. Let them know you love them all the more for their uniqueness. Encourage them to join groups such as cubs, scouts or brownies. They do well when involved in humanitarian organisations together with people their own age.

Astro tips

Don't expect these children to do anything the traditional way. They are often attracted to unusual subjects. Astronomy, astrology and space travel fascinates them, as does technology. The latest video and electronic games appeal to them, as do computers. A good sci-fi story will always hold their interest.





Your Scorpio child

24 Oct - 22 Nov

The Scorpio child is the enigma of the zodiac. With these children, still waters really do run deep. Don't be fooled if these children appear self-contained. They feel things at a deeper level than you can imagine. Acutely sensitive and with powerful emotions these children need to feel comfortable with expressing their feelings.

Intensely private, they don't give much away. Give them encouragement when it comes to expressing their strong emotions. They blossom when they throw themselves into some creative activity. There are usually no half measures with these children. A simple slight doesn't just hurt their feelings - it can produce deep wounds. These children don't forgive and forget quickly. Scorpio children are loners, preferring their own company or that of a few close friends. They delight in having a secret hut or belonging to secret clubs, especially when codes and passwords are involved.

Astro tips

Scorpio children thrive on emotional intensity and usually love mystery or detective books. Magic and chemistry sets are winners. They derive great benefit from being exposed to classical music. Transformative processes such as butterflies emerging from chrysalises will leave them entranced.

Franchelle Ofsoské-Wyber