

DEDICATED TO MY PARENTS AND CHILDREN

# Introduction

Parent/child relationships have always been, and always will continue to be, difficult. I must admit that through all of the years I've worked with people, I'm still astounded by the lack of knowledge, compromise, and understanding that exists and which contributes to the ongoing dilemma within families. Astrology has been a valuable and practical psychological tool, which has given me an uncanny and welcome understanding of human beings. My experiences have led me to believe that I can illuminate, and be of help to, parents who are raising their children from birth to infinity.

As a divorced mother raising my children, I innately placed my emphasis on love and caring, but it was not enough. I had to find that extra dimension—an insightful support system! As I began to study and intuitively perceive the value of the astrological personality, I knew that I had found what I needed and did not have—a nurturing, knowledgeable “fairy godmother.”

Through personal experience and continued study of my Aquarian son (key phrase: “I know,” and God forbid I told him he didn't), and my Taurus daughter (key phrases: “I have” and “I want more”), I learned that having what I call “Astrological Advance Notice” of my two children's personalities gave me a true picture or, better said, a deeper insight into their traits, characteristics, and behavior. This special understanding taught me how to compromise and how not to parent my children through ego and control. This philosophy has been the key to our success as a family comprised of a single parent and two children.

Once you read this book, it is my hope that you will use it over and over again as a reference guide when you have a question about your child's personality and behavior. The contents will provide a wealth of information about your child or children and yourself, and show you how to build compatibility through understanding. My children are my greatest accomplishment, and I am still there for them every step of the way (even when they may not want me to be).

To all parents and children alike: My hope is that this book will provide you with the kind of information that can help inspire much-needed communication between parents and children, so that none of you will ever have to say: “I wish someone had told me this long ago!”



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# Preface

*“What lies behind us  
and what lies before us  
are tiny matters compared  
to what lies within us.”*

— THOREAU

This book is not going to comprise an intricate explanation of astrology. It does not explain the complex mathematical relationships between the Sun, Moon, and the Ascendents, or detail information about the planets. Instead, my goal is to structure knowledge for the novice or layperson, focusing on the benefit of the powerful Sun Sign (the all-encompassing self). I want to help parents learn to recognize and deal with the special set of traits and characteristics that are within their child or children, each being born under a specific sun sign precisely positioned in the heavens, on the date of his or her birth.

Each of our children is gifted with certain natural abilities, and these gifts must not be suppressed. If they are, this situation can lead to feelings of personal repression that will invariably hurt our children for the rest of their lives. Parents first need to understand how their own self-repression has affected their quality of life. They must not allow their own past experiences (which include their respective backgrounds and environmental influences) to stifle their children. They must come to terms with the past in order to live with the future. *Acceptance* is a huge word in our society; but *self-acceptance* is the only way for parents to guide their children toward facing a healthy future.

Most people who know very little or nothing at all about the study of astrology still find it both fascinating and scary. My experiences, whether they entail enjoying food at a good restaurant, sharing conversation at a cocktail party, or having fun at a picnic, are forever enlightening and humorous. It begins when someone is told that I am an astrologer. The first challenging question posed to me is: “Tell me about myself!” It’s so interesting to watch the expressions on these people’s faces as I begin to explain their personality, through their sun sign. The familiar begins to ring a surprising bell, which soon produces their second statement: “Please be kind!”

I laugh, and usually ask, “What’s so scary about wanting to understand your personality and behavior?”

Most answer, “Nothing—but sometimes it’s better not to know!” I tell them that it isn’t astrology that’s scary, it’s self-awareness that is! Self-awareness can instigate personal risk-taking and change. That’s definitely intimidating!

I want to clarify that I am not here to judge individual personalities; my purpose is to explain them. My years of experience as a practicing astrologer, with a natural ability to intuitively interpret my clients’ astrological charts, have led me to become a Counselor in Human Behavior. I counsel individuals, couples (both single and married), as well as parents, whom I work with on opening up areas of communication, especially with their children. My particular concentration has been on repression in personal communication and the fear of confrontation.

Children must be the priority of the future! It is essential that all parents understand how their own background of family repression can be a negative force when raising a child. Poor communication will ultimately impede a child’s personal freedom and self-confidence.

My experience as a counselor has shown me that 90 percent of my clients, who are now parents, or who will become parents, are *victims* of their parents! The unhealthy lessons that they have learned throughout their childhood can personally and functionally repress the children whom they are trying to raise. Mom and Dad must not parent through their own egos and through self-control. Children are born innocent and respond as though they were watered-down clay, formed or shaped in the hands of their parents. Excessive control mechanisms exhibited by Mom and Dad are simply the result of their own personal insecurity.

Of course, most parents do not intentionally victimize their children, as they are not consciously in touch with their own control techniques. What parents must realize is that by transferring their unresolved problems to their children, they are not giving credence to their individuality. Parents must work very hard to open their minds and look inside, always searching to seek an understanding of their own personality and behavior patterns. Making this effort will not only develop their children’s potential, but secure their own mental health as well. I believe so completely in the validity of astrology with respect to personality, individuality, and behavior, that I need to educate, inspire, and motivate... which explains my rationale for the writing of this book.

I hope it brings you all the answers you’re looking for!

Sylvia Friedman  
Chicago, Illinois  
1995

# How to Use This Book

Each of the 12 chapters in *The Stars in Your Family* will focus on the personality of the astrological sign that the sun was in at the time of each individual's birth. It begins with the fiery, independent Aries, and ends with the sensitive, idealistic Pisces. The descriptive subheads depict the traits, characteristics, and behavioral patterns of each child, parent, grandmother and grandfather—you can use this book to find out about *any* parent/child relationship, no matter what age the person is. (So, when I use the words *child* or *children*, know that I *could* conceivably be referring to 60-year-old children!)

For example, under Aries, you will read the subhead “Motivators of the Zodiac,” and this description will tell you that an Aries, who needs to lead, and appears first in the zodiac, will not enjoy secondary positions. You might wish to first glance at the subheads throughout the book before reading the entire text to get an idea of the main characteristics common to each individual.

As you continue reading each chapter, you will find a section called “Parent and Child,” which will feature 12 sets of parents, who are, or may be, raising the child featured in the chapter—for example: The Sagittarius Parent/The Virgo Child, or The Aries Parent/The Pisces Child. The information will include parent/child compatibility, the foundation of the child's personality, and can help parents to recognize the inherent insecurity within each child. Once parents begin to understand what's behind a child's particular lack of assurance, subject to his or her own fear or self-doubt, they can learn to avoid problems that may occur without having this kind of advance notice!

The categories listed within the parent/child section apply to both the female and male parent—for example: The Aries Mom/The Virgo Child, or The Capricorn Dad/The Aquarius Child. Both parents need to understand how to treat their children in order to build healthy and fulfilling relationships.

This book offers you a special opportunity to understand how to raise children with respect to who they are, rather than based on unrealistic expectations of what you expect them to be. In addition, parents will begin to recognize themselves, and how they may have been treated by their parents; and grandparents will receive information that can help them learn how to communicate with their grandchildren, as well.

*The Stars in Your Family* deals with the traits, characteristics, insecurities, and behavioral patterns that relate to four kinds of personalities: fire, earth, air, and

water. Even though each person is placed in an individual category, each one is different, and tends to stand in his or her own light. The book is about families: moms, dads, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends—virtually anyone whom you would like to better understand!

(**An editorial note:** I have used the plural “children” and “Mom and Dad/parents” for the most part throughout this book for ease of usage and to avoid awkward “he or she” references. However, this book, of course, applies to single-parent families, and those with one or more children.)



*“If I knew that tomorrow the world  
would go to pieces, I would  
still plant an apple tree.”*

— MARTIN LUTHER

# Chapter One

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## ♈ ARIES THE RAM

MARCH 21–APRIL 19    ELEMENT: Fire    KEY PHRASE: “I am”

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### THE ARIES PERSONALITY

Some years ago, my friend Sandy and I were sitting in the park, as we did most afternoons when our children were small. On this particular day, Sandy began to talk about her three-year-old son Alan’s character flaws.

Sandy asked, “Why does Alan need to take the lead with all of his friends? When he plays in the sandbox, I hear him shouting orders and giving instructions on how to build sturdy mountains and deep holes. Every time I try to help him with his puzzles, he seems impatient and bored. And he appears to have a problem finishing what he starts. I don’t know why I worry so much, but there is a lot to think about when you raise a child!”

Sandy and I had a lengthy discussion regarding the psychological meaning behind her son’s behavior. Yet, if I were to talk to her about it today (22 years later with an extensive knowledge of astrology), I would have told her, “Sandy, I would like you to understand that Alan was born an Aries, the first sun sign in the zodiac, and he will never enjoy secondary positions. He has a gift for leadership, and it would not be wise to stifle that ability.”

or they'll miss out on the pleasure of watching their potential and productivity grow. Parents: help your Aries children use their warrior quality as an aid in achieving their goals, and always stress their need for (heaven forbid) patience and tact!

### ***It's Black or White—There's No In-Between***

Aries children (along with their compatible fire signs, Leo and Sagittarius) have difficulty understanding gray areas, and this is something that has to be developed. Aries tend to see the world in bold, black-and-white strokes; they either go in one strong direction or the other. The middle ground does not hold much weight as far as these little fireballs are concerned. Remember that these children are decisively directional and must have their questions answered. To put off Aries children is tantamount to turning your back on them. You may think that this is an extreme statement, but trust me, it isn't! Aries individuals need to resolve their problems and move on. Indecision exasperates them. If Mom and Dad do not make decisions quickly, Aries children will wonder what their parents' problem is. It's best to explain to an Aries child that Mom and Dad will need some time to be certain that they are making the right decision.

Communication is the way to make Aries children understand gray areas. Parents: reveal your wisdom—ask them what they think (they love trying to tell you what to do). Respect is very important to Aries children, and to consider their opinion is the perfect way to communicate with them. Listen to their ideas, but try to help them understand that they cannot control every situation. This is their major lesson. Parents must begin to temper their black-and-white tendencies early, as Aries children believe that their sense of right and wrong is part of their birthright. Working with the team of Aries and compromise can be a major challenge. It's vital to be consistent and patient when teaching life's gray areas to Aries children, as they do rebel when anyone tries to make them go against what they know is right (even when they aren't). "I'm wrong" is just not in their vocabulary, and they believe that the word *no* should definitely have the power to put someone in their proper place. However, as parents continue to both communicate and encourage, they will find that Aries children's attitudes will improve as they grow up (although their idealism and naivete can keep them emotional babies for a long time)!

### ***Watch Out for Their Short Fuses!***

Aries children are born impatient, and this impatience is usually the cause of their anger. If they see other children who will not learn from their mistakes, they instantly decide to themselves: "That's dumb!" In fact, they will appear to have tunnel vision. If this happens, watch out for their short fuses, followed by tantrums. If someone does not do something exactly as they wish and loses their trust, be prepared! Aries children can lose their tempers quickly, although they can be so charming that you can expect the people that they hurt to immediately forgive them. Mom and Dad must take their Aries children aside and explain to them that

## ***The Sagittarius Parent/The Aries Child***

Free spirits walking hand in hand in the park—who are these charming, charismatic individuals? They are Mom and Dad Sagittarius, and their Aries children. This relationship can be beautiful if their competitive natures do not get in the way. The logical question might be: what kind of competition could exist between a Sagittarius parent and an Aries child? Answer: Battling egos.

Sagittarius and Aries do have an instant wavelength between them, and as you have previously read, this is always the beginning of a great relationship. Mom and Dad (particularly Dad) want to create an open home environment, where “doing your own thing” is allowed. An Aries can certainly live that lifestyle. A Sagittarius mom and her Aries children will enjoy intellectual and philosophical compatibility. They will learn from each other, but there will be times when Aries children can be a bit too intense and dramatic for their Sagittarius mother. However, the Sagittarius mother also has her own “on-stage,” performing ability, and she too loves the limelight. Mother and children need to share their need for personal attention, as we definitely know that Aries kids will never accept secondary positions.

Sagittarius parents have a tendency to upstage their own children, trying to prove that they know all of the answers. Aries children will have a problem with this behavior. Mom and Dad need to understand that becoming parents of Aries children will give them the challenge of sharing their emotional intensity and inner strength. The key to compatibility in this family is “honest love and a sense of humor.” This formula is certain to bring joy and laughter that will brighten each room of their home.

### *The Sagittarius Mom/The Aries Child*

A fire parent and a fire child share a similar approach to life, which can be the beginning of a healthy relationship. Both Sagittarius Mom and her Aries children need to protect their freedom and individuality. Therefore, young Aries will be able to explore life without too much restriction. Mom can be very definite and exacting in reference to the way she runs her household, but she has a complete understanding of the need for humor and fun. Mom and her kids will be able to share their interests, both on an intellectual and creative level. Mom will always want to develop the young Aries mind, and these children will love to learn. Both Sagittarius Mom and her Aries kids need constant mental stimulation. They have a lot of energy and tend to get bored quickly. As a result, Mom will need to introduce her Aries kids to a variety of interesting subjects to stimulate their minds. If Mom can understand that she has to explain her decisions, and ask for young Aries’ opinions on important issues, she will find that she has made friends for life!

*“Science is organized knowledge.  
Wisdom is organized life.”*

— IMMANUEL KANT

# Chapter Three

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## II GEMINI THE TWINS

MAY 21–JUNE 20    ELEMENT: Air    KEY PHRASE: “I think”

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### THE GEMINI PERSONALITY

Geminis are named “the twins” because their personalities are twofold. What you see may not always be what you get. I’d like parents to understand that their own intelligence and mental agility will always be tested when raising these complex children. Gemini babies are “logical thinkers,” and they will expect their parents to be excellent teachers who can provide them with fact-based, well thought-out answers.

If Geminis are not satisfied with their parents’ answers to questions, their eyes may dance about for a moment, as they decide whether or not it’s worth responding, which will depend on how interesting they judge the speaker to be. This is an excellent example of why Gemini children often retreat into their own world—they will quickly evaluate the mental competence of all individuals, dismissing those who do not live up to their expectations. So, it will be important for Mom and Dad to teach these children to accept people for who they are, and not for how smart they are perceived to be.

As Geminis grow, their parents should understand that they will be fascinated by learning, especially in such areas as writing, public speaking, and the sciences.

Parents may find it difficult to impose their own personal feelings or beliefs upon a young Gemini, as these children believe that they can resolve their own problems. Their independence is admirable, but if they're allowed to take this insular quality to an extreme, they may never be able to share their inner thoughts with anyone. Mom and Dad must try to help their young Geminis understand that it's okay to share their feelings with others, and hopefully, they will respond to the fact that sharing can be a learning experience.

Logic and objectivity are the keys to a Gemini's heart, while mental affinity and friendship form the basis for building solid relationships. Parents must let these children know that they understand how difficult it is for them to deal with their feelings. They can do this by encouraging them to talk and by being there when they are needed. Otherwise, these children may choose the path of least resistance—being alone.

### ***A Restless Nature***

Gemini children may find it difficult to relax. Since their minds are always going a mile a minute, parents of these kids will soon realize that they don't like keeping still. Once a goal is complete and the challenge is over, this child will move right on to the next project. Mom and Dad will also notice that they can spend just as much time and energy indulging in gloomy moods. The restless quality that is inherent in the Gemini personality is caused by boredom, which drives them to seek out multiple outlets for their creativity. In my experience, I have found that all Geminis are restless, without exception. Whether they are intellectuals or artists, there is an intense quality that is inherent in their personalities, even if they appear to be calm, cool, and collected.

Parents can earn the respect of these complex children by displaying their own self-confidence, courage, and reliability. At times, it will take both patience and acceptance to deal with the restless nature of these children and their ever-expanding need for versatility. It's a good idea for parents to get them out of the house, and offer them a variety of options so that they may explore life fully. They will thank their parents for all of the opportunities with which they've provided them and, as a result, they will adapt better to the outside world.

### ***Listen to Me!***

When Gemini children speak, they expect their parents to listen. When they are seeking approval, they want their parents to listen. When they are asking for friendship, they want them to listen. These needs can contrast greatly with their own behavior. Gemini children will spend a lot of time doing their own thing because being by themselves never bothers them—in fact, they seem to enjoy it. But parents, when they finally speak to you, they will want your complete attention. These children have opinions about everything, and they will gladly offer their advice on how they think a problem should be resolved. However, they can become eas-

## PARENT AND CHILD

### *The Aries Parent/The Gemini Child*

Aries parents can be strong mentors. They are born with two traits that are perfect prerequisites for developing a compatible relationship with their Gemini child: intelligence and leadership. Gemini children who are born to an Aries parent will soon realize that they have inherited a best friend!

Aries parents are emotional, and their Gemini children are logical; therefore, they may initially have a problem communicating. Although Geminis are attracted to emotional people, they are primarily thinkers who cannot display their feelings. As such, the emotional Aries parent needs to understand that getting these kids to listen to him or her will require sound, reasonable explanations and fairly meted-out discipline. Young Geminis may not overtly reveal their high-strung, nervous natures, though. Gemini children may appear passive, and then, all of a sudden, an explosive temper will flare up! This is usually how Geminis show their anger.

Both Aries and Geminis are independent, direct, and honest. Mom and Dad will not try to stifle this air kid's freedom. A Gemini responds well to parents who are straightforward and constructive when working out a problem. Gemini children respect their Aries parents because they are usually intelligent and strong. Aries individuals usually say what they mean, and once they make a decision, they stick to it. Gemini children really admire this kind of behavior.

Aries parents tend to have difficulty handling the Gemini's unpredictable nature. Aries are either black or white, right or wrong. They hate waiting for anything or anyone, and they need to share their thoughts openly. Geminis, on the other hand, have no real sense of time, they do their own thing, and they tend to be loners. Mom and Dad really need to take these characteristics to heart when raising their Geminis, to ensure a mutually satisfying relationship.

### *The Aries Mom/The Gemini Child*

When raising a Gemini child, an Aries mother needs to work on her lack of patience. An Aries has many virtues, but patience isn't one of them. It's important for Aries parents to understand that their Gemini children are born to be logical thinkers and that they can spend a lot of time in their own world. When Mom observes this mode of behavior, which is a Gemini child's "detaching mechanism," she will have to adjust to the fact that this trait may persist for years. And, since an Aries mom is bound by close emotional ties, this thinker part of her Gemini's behavior will test her patience on a daily basis.

An Aries mother wants to know everything about her children, and Gemini children will resent any kind of interrogation. In fact, they will probably feel that Mom is intruding on their private space. Mom will have to work on tempering her insistence that her children answer every one of her questions completely, especially

*“Making a home is different  
than doing housework.”*

— ANONYMOUS

## Chapter Four

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### ♋ CANCER THE CRAB

JUNE 21–JULY 22    ELEMENT: Water    KEY PHRASE: “I feel”

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#### THE CANCER PERSONALITY

Cancer children (who are often called Moon Children, because they are sensitive, reflective individuals who are ruled by the moon) are easy to raise as long as they grow up in a family environment that will not compound their own emotional fears. Parental validation is very important when rearing *any* child, but it is crucial for parents who bring up a Moon Child. Young Cancers will easily pick up and mimic the behavior of their parents, as they tend to be natural caretakers themselves. So how do you parent a parent? If you are a Mom or Dad wondering how to discipline this child, try not to be overly harsh and direct. Moon Children are extremely sensitive and can be excellent listeners, but they can become overwhelmed emotionally. Therefore, they can only respond to the use of logic when it comes to dealing with problems. Parents who are domineering will intimidate their Cancer children, who tend to take everything personally. If parents become too temperamental with these children, they will feel as if they’re being punished even if that’s not the intent, and this behavior will cause them to retreat into their own world.

Little Cancers can be too judgmental of other people’s behavior, as they tend to base their own self-confidence on how well everyone else is doing rather than on

Cancers will need both their parents to help them reach rational decisions if their emotions get out of control. These Moon Children can benefit from intelligent, interactive discussions, where everyone can agree to disagree. These talks will help a Cancer child formulate a much clearer perspective of any problem. As Cancers begin to define their own thinking, while comparing it with the energy and power of another's opinion, their outlook can be a lot more productive. Cancers who are taught to concentrate on positive thinking will not be as dominated by their moods and will work their way out of difficult situations in a much easier fashion.

### ***Cancers Value Maturity***

"I hope my parents will act like grown-ups." This will be little Cancer's wish as he or she enters the world. Cancer children want their parents to be self-confident, mature adults who can serve their needs in a responsible and consistent manner. Cancers wear their hearts on their sleeves, and they have a tendency to be suspicious of anyone who might hurt them. As a result, it takes them a long time to trust someone.

They really do not mean to sit in judgment of people, but they do. Their parents are not beyond suspicion, and Mom and Dad may have to present sufficient evidence and make rational explanations before their point is made. Cancer children can believe that they are grown-up at age four. These kids may give a lot of orders, and they expect their parents to obey. Parents of these children will need to be steadfast in their own beliefs and actions. They cannot fall prey to little Cancer's demands. If Mom and Dad start to become too indecisive, this child may take on the role of a parent.

A Cancer child will respond to parents who are sympathetic, compassionate, and emotionally strong; since they're so sensitive, they tend to turn away from parents who are too domineering. Remember, these kids need gentle honesty. Cancer children, more than any other sun sign, emulate their parents' behavior, and they can benefit or suffer as a result of their actions. Since much of a Cancer's personal identity is taken from his or her parents, it is very important for Mom and Dad to serve as healthy role models.

What kind of parent would serve this function for a Cancer child? Someone who is traditional, even a bit old-fashioned, and who is willing to give a lot of hugs and kisses. This behavior will provide a safe, comfortable atmosphere for Cancer children and help to give these youngsters the emotional support and affection that they need.

As I mentioned above, Cancer children enjoy being viewed as grown-ups, and they can be quite comfortable assuming the role of a parent. They will usually take on this role by giving their peers benefit of their sage advice. Parents will be proud of this grown-up attitude, as it will make their children appear very confident, efficient, and organized. However, Mom and Dad will have to intuitively understand that within this confident person still lurks a very sensitive child. At times, this trait can make a Cancer child seem like someone caught between two worlds—right

Dad would never intentionally hurt his Cancer children, but his pragmatic nature stands in the way of his feelings. I would like Dad to recognize the sensitivity that is inherent in his kids' personalities, so that his gentler side can rule at the times when it's appropriate.

### ***The Aquarius Parent/The Cancer Child***

"It's heart to heart, not head to head." Aquarius parents enjoy mental stimulation, and they, along with the other air signs (Gemini and Libra) are thinkers. Cancer children are feelers, so they usually react first from the heart, as opposed to the head. Therefore, the Aquarian parent has some work to do.

It's important for Aquarian parents to understand that Cancer children need to feel heartfelt love in their relationship. Therefore, it's up to them to work on balancing their own need to communicate through the intellect, with their child's need for emotional response and empathy.

Aquarian parents are fair and liberal. They believe that life is based upon enhancing an individual's independence and freedom. "Don't rain on my parade, and I won't rain on yours," is their motto. Aquarians are self-imposed loners who will seek company when they decide it's appropriate and choose isolation when they feel a need for solitude. Cancer children should avoid taking this behavior personally, as it doesn't mean that they are being rejected in any way.

Cancer children will appreciate having objective and intelligent parents who believe in allowing them the freedom to be whom they want to be. They will also respect their parents' honest and ethical behavior. Aquarian moms and dads do, however, have a tendency to overthink their decisions, and do not always feel safe acting upon their gut reactions, as they have trouble believing that their feelings are totally reliable.

As far as the Aquarian/Cancer relationship is concerned, Aquarian parents will have to allow themselves to respond to their Cancer children's sensitivity. I am not asking Aquarian parents to first feel before they think because that type of behavior is not conducive to their personality, but they do need to be aware that their Cancer children *are* emotionally based individuals. When these parents raise Cancer children, they will observe how kind, helpful, and sympathetic these kids are, and Aquarian parents will appreciate and value these wonderful traits because they share these qualities, too. Aquarians may appear to be calm, cool, and collected on the outside, but on the inside, they are extremely intense, and very hard on themselves. This is because they are always trying to get to the truth at the heart of an issue.

The best part of the Aquarian/Cancer relationship is Mom and Dad's ability to provide these children with unconditional love. With an Aquarian, there are no strings attached. This will be the key to making their Cancer children feel secure. Aquarians can also instill a sense of peace and harmony into these sensitive kids. These parents will allow their Cancer children to talk about their feelings in an open atmosphere, where they will not have to fear angry outbursts or judgmental reactions.

*“I have a dream that my four little children  
will one day live in a nation where they  
will not be judged by the color of their skin,  
but by the content of their character.”*

— DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

## Chapter Ten

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### ♄ CAPRICORN THE GOAT

DECEMBER 22–JANUARY 19

ELEMENT: Earth

KEY PHRASE: “I use”

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#### THE CAPRICORN PERSONALITY

Capricorns understand quality. They know it when they see it in a person or in a piece of artwork. Capricorn kids are also excellent leaders because they know how to combine everyone’s ideas and make them all work together. Capricorns are superb at organization, structure, and detail, and they feel like they need to keep their lives in perfect order.

#### *Humor May Help Break the Ice*

Capricorns are very serious children, and they tend to see themselves as miniature adults. Most of them are light years ahead of their time and begin to develop their need to take care of others at an early age. They’re not very interested in child-like games, and would rather create scenarios where they can play “grown-up.” Parents will soon be aware of the exceptional intelligence of their Capricorn children. These kids aren’t afraid to own up to responsibility because they like to be

tice is over at five.” And if Mom is not on time coming to pick up her Capricorn child, he or she will not fail to tell her, “You’re seven minutes late!”

Capricorn children are more secure if they can deal with a defined course of action. If these kids have too much to worry about, their nerves take over. They try to be sure that everyone will do the right thing at the right time so they won’t have to worry. Even as young children, they begin to envision themselves as perfect. Since they are “young grown-ups,” they tend to protect themselves from anxiety by controlling a situation. They do not like to fail, and if they perceive that they have made a mistake, or someone else has erred in some way, they have a problem forgiving themselves, and others as well. It’s important for parents to help young Capricorns understand that they can trust Mom and Dad to do the right thing, which includes teaching these kids that if something happens at 3:05, instead of at three o’clock sharp, it won’t be the end of the world. If parents can try to nip this type of neurotic behavior in the bud at an early age, their Capricorn children may be able to ease up on themselves.

Capricorn children tend to quietly do their jobs, and since they also usually keep their feelings to themselves, it can be hard for parents to tell when they are in need of attention and affection. We know that Capricorns are usually perfectionists. Therefore, they tend to look at people’s foibles, rather than their strong points—no wonder they always want to keep things within their own control! Most Capricorns are results-oriented people who look to strong, intelligent people to provide the assurance and security they need. Capricorns inadvertently test a parent’s ability to discipline them, as they’re usually clear about what’s right or wrong. If parents win this child’s respect by revealing strong minds of their own, young Capricorn will adhere to their rules, and be their best friend. No one can condemn Capricorns for their efficient and accurate ways of doing things, but their parents can guide them toward understanding that the world has a lot to offer, and making a mistake will not inhibit their chance to succeed.

### ***Duty, Obligation, and a Need for Perfection***

Capricorns feel a great sense of duty and obligation. They definitely feel that it is their moral responsibility to take care of other people’s needs—they are wonderful caretakers, so when they watch over other people, they will really do the job right! And when these earth kids are assigned to work with other people on a project, they tend to want to take complete charge. It’s hard for them to see the forest for the trees because of their strong determination to get the job done. A Capricorn’s ability to put things to use usually forms the basis of their self-confidence. They believe in anything that serves a purpose, and when something doesn’t work, it’s “outta here”!

Capricorns are leaders whose self-esteem is based on what they achieve. They are self-starters who really do not like to take orders, so they are usually excellent managers who are diligent and meticulous. People have wondered why their Capri-

of Gemini father, he can help his child learn that creativity can be combined with reason in order to give them a broader and more open-minded perspective of the world.

A Gemini father may also enjoy some hobbies that may be thought of as domestic. He enjoys cooking and traveling, which are activities that his Capricorn children will enjoy sharing with him, and he also is interested in collecting valuables from all over the world. All in all, Dad is a well-rounded man who will enrich his children's lives in many ways!

### ***The Cancer Parent/The Capricorn Child***

Cancer parents and their Capricorn children share a great affinity for home and family. Cancers are comfortable living in a traditional and stable home environment, and this atmosphere will fulfill Capricorn children's need for safety and security. Cancers feel profound love for their children, and they will give their kids an abundance of love and attention. These sensitive parents do, however, have a tendency to do almost *anything* for their kids simply because they want to receive their approval. Sometimes it's necessary for Cancer parents to remain firm in order to maintain their own self-esteem. Cancers are very emotional people, so it would be wise for them to nurture their own feelings instead of worrying about their children to excess.

The following story illustrates this point.



*My friend Dina and her son Richard were having dinner at my house to celebrate my son Layne's 29th birthday. After I made a birthday toast, Layne took my hand and said, "I love you, Mom."*

*Dina smiled. "Layne, that's beautiful."*

*He responded matter-of-factly, "I always tell my Mom how much I love her." Dina's son Richard glanced quickly over to his mother, and then back down to his salad. I could tell that he wasn't relating to this emotional scene.*

*Dina then looked at her own son, and said, "I love you, Richard."*

*He replied uncomfortably, "Thanks, that's great." I could see Dina's eyes filling up with tears. She didn't want to make a scene, so she excused herself and went into the bathroom.*

*"Richard," I asked him curiously, "is it hard for you to tell your mother you love her?"*

*He looked down and muttered, "Maybe."*

*As usual, I needed to get more information. "Richard, your Mom is a very sensitive woman, and she would really love to hear you say those words."*

*He resisted for a moment, and then said, "I do love my mother."*

*I pressed him. "Then why can't you say it?"*