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A FACTOR STUDY OF THE TRAITS OF THE DIONNE  
QUINTUPLETS

LEONARD W. FERGUSON



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# A FACTOR STUDY OF THE TRAITS OF THE DIONNE QUINTUPLETS<sup>1</sup>

BY LEONARD W. FERGUSON

*University of Connecticut*

Blatz in his book, *The Five Sisters* (1), presents data which enable one to rank the Dionne quintuplets on 23 mental, physical and social traits. These traits together with the rank orders (computed by the writer) of Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Yvonne and Marie are shown in Table I. Explanatory remarks concerning each of the traits rated appear below:

1. *Weight at birth*: Rank 1 indicates heaviest child, rank 5 the lightest.
2. *Weight at 18 months*: Same as item 1.
3. *Height at birth*: Rank 1 indicates tallest child, rank 5 the shortest.
4. *Height at 2 years*: Same as item 3.
5. *Vocabulary at 24 months*: Rank 1 indicates child possessing largest vocabulary, rank 5 child with smallest.
6. *Vocabulary at 36 months*: Same as item 5.
7. *Mental age, 11 months*: Rank 1 indicates most intelligent, rank 5 least intelligent child.
8. *Mental age, 21 months*: Same as item 7.
9. *Mental age, 35 months*: Same as item 7.
10. *Eating cooperativeness*: Rank 1 indicates most cooperative child, rank 4 the least cooperative child.
11. *Inattention while eating*: Rank 5 indicates child most inattentive, rank 1 indicates child most attentive.
12. *Second servings, 3 years*: Rank 1 indicates the child who had the most frequent number of second servings, rank 5 the child who had the least.
13. *Third servings, 3 years*: Same as item 12, except that reference is to third servings rather than second.
14. *Noncompliance*: Rank 5 indicates the most compliant

<sup>1</sup> Recommended for publication by Dr. J. R. Kantor, February 27, 1940.

- child, rank 1 the least compliant.
15. *Discipline*: Rank 1 indicates the child who had to be disciplined the most frequently, rank 5 the one who had to be disciplined the least.
  16. *Anger (thwarting by adult)*: Rank 1 indicates the child least likely to react, rank 5 the child most likely to react.
  17. *Anger (unsatisfied demands)*: Same as item 16.
  18. *Anger (thwarting by child)*: Same as item 16.
  19. *Anger (inability to handle material)*: Same as item 16.
  20. *Fear (change in routine)*: Same as item 16.

TABLE I  
TRAIT RATINGS OF THE DIONNE QUINTUPLETS

No.	Trait rated	Y	Rank Order			
			A	C	E	M
1.	Weight at birth .....	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Weight at 18 months .....	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Height at birth .....	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Height at 2 years .....	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Vocabulary at 24 months .....	2	1	3	5	4
6.	Vocabulary at 36 months .....	1	2	5	4	3
7.	Mental age at 11 months .....	1	3	2	4	5
8.	Mental age at 21 months .....	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Mental age at 35 months .....	1	3	2	4	5
10.	Eating cooperativeness at 3 years .....	3	1	4	2	5
11.	Inattention while eating at 3 years .....	4	1	3	2	5
12.	Second servings at 3 years .....	2	1	5	4	3
13.	Third servings at 3 years .....	2	1	5	3	4
14.	Noncompliance .....	4	5	2	1	3
15.	Discipline .....	4	1	3	2	5
16.	Anger (thwarting by adult) .....	4	3	5	2	1
17.	Anger (unsatisfied demands) .....	3	2	1	5	4
18.	Anger (thwarting by child) .....	3	5	4	2	1
19.	Anger (inability to handle material) ..	3	5	2	1	4
20.	Fear (change in routine) .....	1	5	2	4	3
21.	Fear (unusual organic experience) ....	4	1	2	3	5
22.	Social popularity .....	1	4	2	3	5
23.	Social interest .....	3	1	2	4	5