

Your Child's Moon by Gloria G. Star

The experience of raising a child brings unmeasured joy along with unexpected challenges. There's simply nothing like it! Each child is different, and as every parent will attest, sometimes figuring out what your child needs is like solving an ever-changing mystery. Your child's personal *horoscope* - the astrological chart calculated from the precise date, time and place of birth - provides marvelous clues to solving the mystery of your child's needs and can be a helpful guide to understanding the best ways to nurture each child. *The horoscope shows the positions of the Sun, Moon and planets at the time of birth, and each chart is unique.* During the early years of childhood, the Moon is an especially important factor. In fact, a child's Moon Sign is much more significant than the Sun Sign when it comes to personality drives and needs! Childhood is the time when each person develops the basic matrix of the personality, and each quality in the horoscope develops or unfolds at a different period during childhood. The Moon is the first noticeable quality of the personality expressed by a child.



In astrology, the Moon signifies how an individual needs to be nurtured, and represents the space in the psyche where each person stores all feelings. The Moon operates from a subconscious level, and we know from our study of psychology that the experiences stored in the psyche from this impressionable period of infancy and youth form the matrix of an individual's emotional make-up. In fact, the Moon

is a key factor in identifying what we've come to know as the "EQ" - or "Emotional Intelligence" of an individual. A child's Moon Sign (the astrological sign the Moon is in at birth) shows how these early feelings and experiences are filtered in that young psyche. In addition, the Moon illustrates what feels good and what might be especially important to help a child feel secure, safe and what he or she needs most when comfort is required.

The intuitive link between parents and children, especially that between Mother and Baby, has long been established - and it is this link that helps guide through the stormy waters of upsetting moments and sharing simply pleasures. Another significant quality of the Moon in your child's chart is that it illustrates what your child may need from Mother and others who nurture him or her to strengthen that intuitive connection. The Moon also shows how a child is likely to perceive Mother - even if Mother does not think that's who she is! It will help if you think of this as the unconscious drive that needs to be fulfilled from Mom. Also, if you have more than one child, you'll be likely to see the differences in the way each child relates to Mother by exploring the meaning of the Moon in the chart of each child.

As part of personal spiritual development, the Moon is strongly linked to the soul, and for many, the Moon represents what the Soul seeks to develop over the course of a lifetime. Moon also resonates with the unconscious drives that seem to echo the needs for personal spiritual evolution. Of course, a child may not be conscious of this process, but for the parent guiding a child, understanding that the Moon's significance in the chart represents these needs can help the parent to choose experiences and opportunities to further enhance the spiritual elements of personal growth. Children have not yet developed the many blocks that can get in the way of the unity between self and spirit. Feeding the "lunar" nature will help a child maintain this strong connection.

Since the Moon is the most outstanding quality seen in the personality of an infant and toddler, the qualities represented by the Moon and her sign will overshadow the qualities of the Sun sign during these early years. As a child matures, other energies, drives and needs begin to emerge - all part of the developing personality. Even though the Moon is prominent in the first few years, it's always there - like the heartbeat of the personality. In fact, you might think of the Moon as the strongest indicator of the inner child still present throughout the life of each individual! (That includes all us grownups!)

From the Moon's Sign, you can learn several significant things about your child. The astrological sign tells a lot about the way the Moon works. Your child's strongest emotional sensitivities and most prominent needs will be reflected through the Moon, and the Moon's sign provides important clues about what your child is likely to need first and foremost! Think of the Moon as the representative of your child's most "pressing" needs. Once you understand the basic quality of these needs, you can then create an environment and daily routine that might be most comfortable for your child - plus you'll have an inside track when it comes to understanding his or her personal preferences! Don't forget - The Moon also shows you what a child looks for in his or her Mother. Let's look at the twelve different Moon Signs from the perspective of childhood - or "developmental astrology."

As I describe each Moon Sign, I'm choosing to use only one gender per sign, just for ease of reading. Please realize that boys and girls are both included.



Make room! An Urge for independence is evident for a child with Aries Moon. In fact, this quality can even be seen in the earliest weeks of life! The most significant thing you're likely to notice is strong impatience - punctuated by higher levels of physical activity, or even more aggressive behavior if anything takes too long. When it's time for cuddling, Aries Moon can demand immediate satisfaction, and gives warm hugs. But he might not like it if he feels to restrained in the process. (That's what you feel when he's pushing away!) During toddler years, expect the potential for a love of teasing games and a desire to be active. Flares of temper may extend well beyond the "terrible twos," and it's important to help this child find healthy outlets for his need to be assertive. The more negative emotions are most likely to emerge when Aries Moon is either over-tired or bored.

Although testing physical strength may be an obvious drive, he will also enjoy mental challenges. Once in school, Aries Moon is the kid eager to learn new things. Just remember that the basic impatience can extend into this arena, and as subjects (or sports) become more complex, teach him to accept that more effort may be required to grasp an idea or meet a physical challenge. Throughout life, Aries Moon hungers to express what may seem to be an endless mental creativity. This child is likely to always have ideas - and

will need plenty of room to express them. In some instances, this expression will be through physical means (since there's a strong competitive drive). After all, the most successful athletes may be those who harness the power of the mind and direct it through a physical means!

He may love bright colors, a room with plenty of light, and toys that help develop coordination. Aries Moon needs encouragement from Mother when it comes to exercising that independent spirit. He needs to see Mom as a leader, since the seed within his own heart is a desire to lead. Remember, even if Mom is not always "out front," this child will look for evidence that she is - at least some of the time! During early teen years, he is also likely to present a more-than-expected challenge to the rules Mom has established. He needs to understand cause and effect, and may have trouble developing awareness of the impact of his actions and words upon others in the world. If Mom can illustrate a positive balance between self-assertiveness and consideration for others -- Aries Moon may get the point more quickly!



Moon in Taurus

Underneath it all, the Taurus Moon child loves feeling mellow. In fact, this baby may even have a mellowing influence on the family! Within her heart of hearts, there is a deep desire for consistency, comfort and stability. There is a sweet nature emanating from this child, almost begging touch and closeness. During infancy, she may seem to fall into a predictable routine quite early. Yet, the innate stubborn streak that becomes readily apparent by the age of two may even show itself during baby's first year! Dietary preferences are likely to emerge in a marked way, and adding new foods to her diet can be a bit of a challenge. For this child, too much variety can seem intimidating - and unexpected changes can stir resistance and feelings of insecurity. If parents are considering changes, like a move, providing ample notice and giving her time to adapt before the change happens will make the transition smoother. Also, before this child starts school, a visit to the campus or classroom beforehand can save parents and child tearful moments.

On the plus side, developing focus is almost second nature to Taurus Moon. An environment rich with earthy warmth can enhance her creative abilities. Toys like building blocks, modeling clay, finger paints, or musical toys can be special favorites. Music and singing may be especially significant for this child, and the comfort of Mother's voice can

work wonders when she is upset. In addition, a steady, gentle tone of voice will capture her attention much more effectively than shrill shouts! Lasting emotional connections are important to Taurus Moon, and this child may form some of these connections in early childhood or teen years. Taurus Moon is likely to view Mother as stable, but possessive, and may look to Mother to learn about the importance of developing strong connections to people and places while maintaining the capacity to let go when change is necessary.



Moon in Gemini

That inquisitive look in the eyes of a child with Gemini Moon gives a hint about the fact that this little mind is constantly in motion. Ever-changing sights and sounds are usually welcome, since the more input, the happier this baby is likely to be. Multi-colored mobiles hanging over the crib can be a delight. Moods can change like the wind, and preferences may change just as quickly. This can be quite evident when parents are trying to identify a toddler's favorite foods - since what was yummy yesterday may be deemed yucky today. You may notice that this child is fascinated with language, and he may talk early (even if it is a language only you understand!). There's simply a powerful need to connect on a mental level. In fact, it is that mental connection that is most significant for Gemini Moon's emotional security. When he feels understood, he feels safe and at home. This child may see Mother as the primary communication link, and will look to Mom to explain what he cannot easily understand. So, Mom, if you're asked to teach the math you always found daunting, maybe this is your chance to learn it once and for all by sorting through it with your inquisitive child!

There's also a strong desire to explore and know as many things as possible - or at least it will seem that way. The need for diversity is intense, and if Gemini Moon is bored, life simply does not feel right. As a result, there is a tendency to be too easily distracted, and focus can be a problem. In early learning, this may not be noticeable, but once subject material requires greater discipline to master, this child can lose focus - unless he is interested in the subject itself. Be sure to include story time as a regular part of your child's routine from the earliest days, and encourage him to join you "reading" as soon as he shows an interest. Later, encourage elementary and teen Gemini Moon to write and tell stories of his own! Books and reading tools can be favorites, but toys or instruments that

develop manual dexterity can also be great. At home, a bright, airy room will feel most comfy for Gemini Moon, but to encourage sleep, keeping his room quiet and free of excess light may be necessary. Keep stimuli to a minimum when it's near time to rest, since once this child is school age, he may find it difficult to drift into sleep immediately following a bout of video-game playing or watching television.



Moon in Cancer

Your emotionally sensitive Cancer Moon baby can be the ultimate cuddler, and feels right at home strapped close to Mother. In fact, letting go of Mother is simply difficult. This is the young child you might see standing and peering out from behind the safe shield of Mom's skirt - especially when being introduced to someone new. The drive for Cancer Moon is to feel the protection of family and security may require something she can touch to keep this feeling alive. Early on, an attachment to a blanket or soft toy is likely to be evident. As this child grows, she may enjoy spending time helping at home, and is likely to search out ways to take care of something or someone. Care and tending of a family pet can help fill the need to nurture, but play-acting with in ways that elicit tender loving care can be just as important. Even a Cancer Moon boy needs to develop his nurturing sensibilities - but this by no means indicates that he is weak. He may become the best gardener (or cook) in the family, so give him room to try it!

Cancer Moon looks to Mother for the model of nurturing protector, but as she grows up may see Mom as smothering if she is too protective. The need for emotional shielding is definitely present with this Moon sign, since this child can sense and feel what's happening and may feel extra vulnerable when surrounded by emotional turmoil. Parents can spell words in attempt to keep this young child from understanding, but she will get the meaning anyway! There's a keen intuitive capacity, and if developing trust in intuition is encouraged, this child will be blessed. A warm, cozy environment filled with favorite memorabilia helps Cancer Moon feel secure, and she will enjoy toys that feel good to touch. Singing can be a favorite activity, especially if someone else is singing along. This child might also enjoy keeping a scrapbook or collecting things. Just be sure that every

scrap is not crammed somewhere beneath the bed, since letting go is one of the big lessons to learn for this child.



Moon in Leo

Get the cameras ready. Set the lights just right. Leo Moon loves to be noticed. When he wants to be noticed, that is.... This child can be quite comfortable as the center of attention, and might occasionally insist on it ... one way or another. Frequently, this Moon simply draws attention, and can certainly indicate a flair for the dramatic and a radiant smile to boot. Even a quiet child with a Leo Moon might be at ease performing on stage. If you have access to opportunities for this child to sing, act, dance or perform in any capacity, he is likely to enjoy cultivating these talents. This does not necessarily mean he is destined to be an actor, but developing the capacity to bring a positive focus, to take on leadership roles, or to simply be in front of others can be useful in a number of situations throughout life.

At the heart of Leo Moon, Mom is a queen, although when she's busy running the carpool taking him to all those lessons she may wonder about that. He will also need to take pride in Mom, and may brag about the oddest things ("My Mom can talk a lot louder than yours!"). The down-side to Leo Moon is a strong tendency to be lazy, and that can certainly be irritating if this child also exhibits what you might call the "little prince (or princess)" complex. Early on, it's necessary to help him learn that it's fine to be in command when it's earned, but that demanding power for its own sake is not particularly endearing. At home, Leo Moon will appreciate a sunny room, plenty of entertaining toys, lots of games, and a time when family gathers to share talents and games. After all, learning to applaud others can feel just as good as taking one's own bows under the spotlight!



Moon in Virgo

Virgo Moon adds a deep curiosity to a child's personality. Even as a baby, quizzical looks or a studious gaze may be quite noticeable when she is interested in something. From a very young age, Virgo Moon begins to express certain preferences, something parents will see when adding new foods to the diet. While she might try something once or twice, if it does not pass muster, trying it

again may not meet with much success until some time has passed. She also loves to learn and will feel quite satisfied when Mom or Dad issue confirmation that the right answer or an excellent result has been accomplished. Too often, Virgo Moon goes about quietly doing ordinary things in extraordinary ways, and may feel unappreciated. Part of the reason for that is that she develops a discriminating sensibility fairly early, and she can see imperfections. This can lead to a feeling that she simply does not measure up to standards, and parents need to take extra care to reassure this child that she is okay.

This child will prefer to stay busy, and might enjoy having plenty of toys around that help her learn how things work. Tools will be appreciated, too - including electronic gadgets and computers. Mother may be seen as the one who does everything correctly, and Virgo Moon will definitely look to Mother as the first line of defense when defining what is or is not acceptable (or perfect). Although Virgo Moon babies are not born organizers, as a child, Virgo Moon will definitely respond to learning the positive attributes of tidiness and organization. Just don't expect every closet or drawer to meet standards all the time! She may also like to lend a helping hand, and should be encouraged to take part in family tasks or community projects, since making a difference adds a positive sense of accomplishment. (Yes, even in childhood!)

Moon in Libra

A child with Libra Moon sees the world through the eyes of an artist and has a special sensibility for all things beautiful. Peaceful surroundings will encourage feelings



of security, and color has a special impact for this child. Baby may be more sensitive than parents first realize, since Libra Moon can be easily irritated in harsh surroundings or by rough surfaces. Fussiness can arise

when baby is simply in an awkward position or if too much light is streaming through the window. However, Libra Moon confers a sweet and charming quality, and you may notice that this child has a very gentle nature. Being around other people is important, too, since the drive from Libra Moon is to relate - even before he has mastered the ability to speak. Reaching out and feeling connected is one of the most powerful motivators for this child. Playtime and toys that incorporate artistic self-expression will be most enjoyable. Always keep crayons and art supplies on hand, but remember that this child might also enjoy

music, any type of design (including dressing up all the bears and dolls in the house), and will want to participate in decorating his room at an age that may surprise you.

One of the greatest challenges he may face is that of developing self-confidence. While he may look up to others or admire friends and their abilities, it can be difficult for him to acknowledge his personal strengths. In the company of family, and later with special friends, Libra Moon may feel more confident about sharing special talents and abilities. Simply stepping onto a stage without that support can leave him feeling too vulnerable (it will help to have Mom standing in the wings - or in visible range!). “Rehearsing” can be great preparation when Libra Moon is being tested, so take the time to go over that spelling list with your elementary school age child! He will also be sensitive to peer pressure, and talking over concerns he may have can help build confidence in his approach to dealing with school friends. Libra Moon needs to see Mother as the ultimate negotiator and peace-maker, and learns his model for relationships from Mom. After all, the most profound drive for Libra Moon is the need to experience partnership, and the way Mother handles her connections with friends or spouse will form the pattern he is likely to follow. Help this child discover the power of self-assertiveness and confidence.

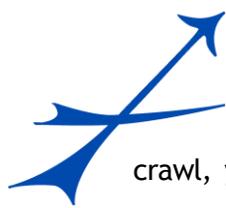
Moon in Scorpio

With the Moon in Scorpio, emotions run deeply and are felt intensely. As a baby, Scorpio Moon may be extra sensitive to environmental stimuli, especially loud noises or changes in temperature. There may be a very strong attachment to Mother, and the need for closeness, cuddling, and tenderness is quite marked. Once young Scorpio Moon gets a little older, a stubbornness can be very apparent, and this can range from refusal to give up “blankie” when it needs to be washed, to reluctance to share a toy with a sibling or friend. This may simply be the beginning of developing negotiating skills, but parents are likely to wonder if they ever have a chance to win. Extreme stubbornness is most likely to arise if she feels threatened or has witnessed that when some things are taken away, they fail to return. With reassurance, she can be much more cooperative.

A room or space that’s definitely “mine” will be a must for Scorpio Moon, and lots of comfy bedcovers will be appreciated. She is likely to enjoy music and the arts, and may love mysteries and tall tales. Nature is particularly appealing, and a studious nature can be

cultivated during school years. This child may also seem to be secretive, and does need to know that her privacy is honored. A secret treasure box may be a favorite, but only if that privacy is not violated. The same is true when it comes to sharing feelings. Scorpio Moon may hide emotions, too, and needs to know that sharing deep feelings or fears is okay. Once trust is established, this is not such a problem, but if trust is broken, regaining it will be very difficult indeed. Scorpio Moon's view of Mother is usually rather profound, and she may really feel that Mom has eyes in the back of her head!

Moon in Sagittarius



“Let’s get moving!” may be the message you get from a child with Sagittarius Moon. Even as a baby, motion feels great, and going somewhere can rank high on the list of favorite things to do. As soon as he learns to crawl, you’ll realize that there’s an adventurer in the house. Playpens will not be appreciated, since feeling fenced in runs against his nature. This child may be a giggler, since laughter is likely to become one of his trademarks.

The drives and needs from Sagittarius Moon prompt a child to be game for just about anything, although learning about limits can be tough. Parents may wonder if this kid understands the word, “No.” Of course he does. He just may not accept it! In fact, limits, focus and discipline might be most easily taught through sports, games and stories. This child has a natural optimism, and may be willing to try again while others are stuck or held back by fear of failure. In school, mental discipline and concentration can be problematic, particularly if the subjects have lost their luster. Since Sagittarius Moon views Mother as the quintessential teacher, she can become his best inspiration to strive to do better or to learn more. Mom also needs to understand that the platitudes she speaks are considered ultimate truths to this child - until the world proves otherwise, that is! Expect this child to ask questions. In other words, buy that encyclopedia or reference software as soon as he is talking. You’ll be glad you did!



Moon in Capricorn

If any child appreciates and needs consistency, it's the child with Capricorn Moon. The drives and needs from this Moon sign are rooted in structure. Without it, this child will feel insecure and uncertain. Although excessive scheduling may not be appreciated, some sense of routine will work nicely for all concerned. In fact, lax attitudes from those in authority will leave Capricorn Moon feeling a lack of trust. It's important to encourage Capricorn moon to appreciate and to express feelings, since the tendency is to try to control emotions or to bury them in feelings of guilt. Certainly, learning right from wrong is necessary, and taking responsibility is paramount, however if too much responsibility is foisted on Capricorn Moon at too young an age, she may feel that childhood was simply lost! This can be especially important if Capricorn Moon is the older sibling, since although she might love helping take care of baby, she might grow to resent responsibilities that get in the way of developing her own needs.

On the lighter side, Capricorn Moon sees the humor in life itself, and a keen, wry wit is likely to be expressed even in early childhood. In some ways, this child appreciates spending time with adults, and may need to approval and guidance of a mentor to help her forge a sense of self confidence. Mother represents control, discipline and is the ultimate authority for Capricorn Moon - although Mom will be tested once this child enters early adolescence. She will enjoy spending time in nature, and might appreciate a room filled with things she has collected from these explorations (or digs!). One thing this child needs to see in life is the true association between cause and effect, and sometimes nature is the best teacher.

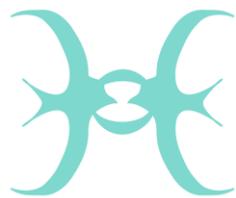


Moon in Aquarius

One of the first things you may notice about Aquarius Moon Baby is that the eyes have a cool, sparkling beauty. This child can seem to look right through you, but in a way that makes you feel good about yourself. In many ways, that's what he seeks to find about himself as he grows up! In childhood, Aquarius Moon leads to a powerful need to feel truly unique. However, it's also possible that this child may feel "too" different, or that the things making him special are not appreciated. As he grows, he'll look for friends and peers who have their own uniqueness. Friends and social

connections may even seem to be the most important reason to go to school every day! Fortunately, Aquarius Moon also loves to explore ideas, and might enjoy learning for its own sake.

At home, this child will prefer an airy, well-circulated room with plenty of room to play, and might enjoy gadgets and toys that are a bit of a puzzle to figure out. Even early on, baby will have fun with interactive toys and games. Computers and electronic toys and games may be favorites. Encourage this child to develop strong communication skills, since he probably has a lot to say, and may have quite an interesting take on some old (or new) ideas! Aquarius Moon sees Mother as a special individual in her own right, but needs to learn from Mother how to make emotional connections. There is a tendency to be emotionally detached (or to try to make feelings “sensible”), and if Mother helps him feel special, warm and alive, he’ll learn the difference between healthy objectivity and detachment.



Moon in Pisces

For a child with Pisces Moon, tranquility is almost a necessity. The impressionable quality of Pisces brings an extra-sensitive filter to his or her emotions. You may see a special mesmerizing quality in the eyes of this child, since the deepest part of her being reflects a powerful imagination. Baby Pisces Moon will appreciate a serene environment, and soothing music can be a sure way to lull him or her into sleep or calm baby when she is upset or ill. You may also notice that this child is like a barometer for the emotions of others in the household. When others are upset or if tension is in the air, she will reflect those feelings.

During childhood, Pisces Moon needs plenty of room to exercise imaginative creativity. Story time is a must, and play-acting can be second nature. Despite a tendency toward shy behavior, this child may also be a ham on stage! It’s a good idea to keep a trunk or box in the closet filled with possibilities for costumes - scarves, hats, funny glasses, old shirts or jackets - anything that will aid him or her to become a character. If she shows in interest in singing or performing arts, encouragement and support can make a world of difference.

In the eyes of a child with Pisces Moon, Mother may be seen as the spiritual anchor for the family. This child’s need to establish a deep bond with Mother is quite powerful, but Mother also needs to be aware that she child may soak up Mother’s moods more readily

than Mom realizes. This child may want to help others, or can be very connected to the family pet. You may also observe that she enjoys being part of any activities that fall in the category of care-taking. Special attention to television and other images is necessary, since Pisces Moon's impressionable psyche may take things too personally. Make time to talk about her concerns, and help Pisces Moon learn about personal emotional boundaries - learning to distinguish what she feels and needs and what others are feeling.

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Read more about your child in Gloria Star's book, *Astrology and Your Child* (Llewellyn, 2000). Coming Soon as an E-book!