



Table of Contents

Abstract	8
Introduction	9
Literature Review	12
Birth Order Theory	12
Firstborn Children	13
Second-Born Children	14
Youngest Child	14
Only Child.....	14
Middle Child.....	15
Education in High-Income Households	15
Parental Expectations	17
Academic Performance	18
Social Cognitive Theory	19
Methods	21
Participants	22
Data Collection	26
Data Analysis	26
Researcher's positionality	27
Findings	28
Theme 1: Family Dynamics.....	29
Theme 2: Parental Expectations	32
Theme 3: Academic Experience	38
Theme 4: Firstborn Experience	40
Theme 5: Firstborn Identity	47
Discussion	50
Conclusion	57
Limitations	59
Recommendations	59
References	60
Appendices	69



List of Figures

Figure 1: SCT Illustration of Firstborns Internalizing Expectations	20
Figure 2: Tree Diagram of Expectations and Firstborn Experiences	57

List of Tables

Table 1: Participant Background Information	22
Table 2: Identification of Themes and Subthemes	28

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Ethical Clearance	69
Appendix B: Interview Guidelines	70
Appendix C: Signed Informed Consent	72
Appendix D: Interview Verbatim	77
Appendix E: Coding Sheets	163