

# **National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc.**

*A Support Group for Parents of Twins and Higher Order Multiples*

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## **Research and Education**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUGUST 18, 2001**

#### **SCHOOL PLACEMENT OF TWINS, TRIPLETS, AND HIGHER ORDER MULTIPLES**

There are several current research studies on the effect on twins when separated into different classrooms in the same grade. Many of those studies point to zygosity (identical or fraternal), age, and previous experiences with separation as significant factors to consider. Identical twins especially seem to have strong multiple bonds with the early primary grades (PreK-2) being a time when many seem to benefit both academically and socially from being placed together.

However, each set of multiples is unique. This means parents are generally an educator's best resource in making placement decisions. This affirmation of the voice of parents in making decisions concerning separation/non-separation is at the heart of the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs' (NOMOTC's) Guidelines For The Education Of Multiple Birth Children. It states:

"Schools should maintain a flexible placement policy throughout the early elementary school years. Consultation with parents and the involved children will provide clearer insights into how the children's needs can best be served."

Unfortunately, according to statistics, this 'individual' look at multiples isn't always in place. A recent research study, conducted by NOMOTC, revealed that 43% of the educators surveyed believe all multiples should be separated in school, with the highest percentage choosing kindergarten as the point of separation. Especially in the case of identical twins, this separation can be easier on the classroom teacher. Why? Some say it's simply a matter of looks. Some parents have even reported teachers requesting their multiples wear name tags, dress in different color clothing, or maintain different hair styles.

The National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. has additional information and research focused on helping both parents and educators better understand this issue. NOMOTC resources include a booklet, "Placement of Multiple Birth Children In School." The booklet covers basic information on twin types, differing opinions on mandatory separation policies, reasons to separate, reasons for not separating, and tips for teachers. The booklet also details the results of NOMOTC's research on this topic, as well as findings from other prominent researchers. NOMOTC has also prepared a set of "Guidelines for the Education of Multiple Birth Children." Aimed at educators and school support staff, the policy statement outlines seven areas that both educators and parents should consider in order to insure the best possible educational settings for multiple birth children.

For information on many issues effecting multiple-birth families or about individual or professional membership options, please contact NOMOTC. NOMOTC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1960 for the purpose of promoting the special aspects of child development, which relate specifically to multiple birth children. It offers support, networking and education to parents of twins and higher order multiple birth children. Headquartered in Thompson Station, Tennessee, NOMOTC currently has 450 clubs with 23,000 members throughout the United States.

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