

Susan Griffith and her sons Chad & Brandon Moore on Twinship and Individuality



Chad, Susan and Brandon

Susan is mother to Chad and Brandon, who are fraternal twins. Over the years, Susan has nurtured their unique twin bond while encouraging their individuality.

Brandon has an Accounting degree and is the Project Manager for an engineering firm.

Brandon says:

“As a twin my individuality was tied closely to my twin brother. As a baby and toddler, since I was very shy, I let my fraternal twin brother generally speak for me in public from an early age. However, it did help that we were fraternal and not identical (brown vs. blonde hair, hazel vs. blue eyes, left-handed vs. right-handed, and introverted vs. extroverted personalities) so we did not get dressed in similar clothing by our mother and I do not remember anyone referring to us as the twins in my immediate family. When we would go out in public most strangers did not think we were twins.

I think the encouragement to be our own person was more obvious to me once we started school and started getting involved in activities outside of our own household. In attending a Montessori school they encouraged us to be in separate kindergarten classes so we could not depend on each other as much, which would allow us to develop our own individuality as I would have to speak and interact with others on my own.

We generally were in the same activities growing up (afterschool programs, boy scouts, etc) as having a single mother it was much more convenient to have us doing the same activities. When it did become more obvious that we took different interests in things such as sports we were encouraged and accommodations were made for us to pursue those interests, which was definitely provided to us through the help of our mother and her parents.”

Chad is currently studying agriculture/premed. He says:

“My name is Chad Moore and my brother, Brandon, and I are 29 year old fraternal twins. When we were very small our individuality was far less apparent as we relied on one another for many things having been such good “womb-mates” and all. When we started school we were placed into separate classrooms and this was the first time we had really been consistently separated. Brandon handled it well and I acted out until they allowed me to go see him whenever I wanted. The need for these “check-ins” diminished over time as we established our own friend groups and became more comfortable without each other. We were encouraged by our Mom to play sports and pursue hobbies and we both sampled many sports and eventually settled on the ones we liked best - football for me and tennis for Brandon. I read a lot growing up and Brandon was a Lego architect building grand block cities (to which I would become a tow-headed Godzilla if we were mad at one another). We usually picked out our own clothes and were allowed to dress ourselves and only the occasional matching outfit picture can be found in baby albums. I really felt like we were given free range to figure out who we, as twins were, as well as who we were as individuals. I'm certain this is easier when you are not identical but I think the parental encouragement and allowance towards this end is paramount in a child's development.”