

Optimum*Child

An Astrological Profile for Britney Spears

by Gloria Star

Prepared by:

Gloria Star

PO Box 311, Clinton CT 06413

www.GloriaStar.com

(860) 664-3590

Childhood is a time filled with promise. A new life, fresh beginnings and – for parents and teachers – it’s the ultimate challenge. How many times have parents wondered why kids don’t come with instruction manuals? There’s a secret: they do!

Each person is born on a certain day at a special time and a certain spot on the surface of the globe. Astrologers use this information to chart the positions of the planets at the date, time and place of birth. At the birth moment, and when viewed from the birthplace, the pattern of the Sun, Moon and planets is something that will never be repeated in quite the same way. This unique pattern forms a person’s natal chart or horoscope.

The natal chart is a symbolic map of a person’s unique potentials, drives and needs. A sort of “cosmic guidebook,” it can give someone perspective on his or her own being, and it can also help others better to understand that person. The report that you are reading now is specially designed to help anyone who is raising or teaching a child. Unlike a regular horoscope interpretation, it shows how the symbolism of the chart is likely to work out during the earlier stages of human development, from babyhood to adolescence. Children change rapidly, and, in the process of becoming themselves, they need special love and guidance. Hopefully this report will give you a few hints and insights that will help you to appreciate this child’s unique qualities and help them to blossom as the child grows.

Please remember that everyone – including a child – has free will. So while an astrological report can give you some valuable information, it doesn’t indicate a fixed set of limited options. Of course, environment also has its influence, but by understanding the significant drives and needs represented by Britney’s chart, you can better appreciate her incomparability, and, hopefully, guide her to fulfill her potentials in the healthiest possible way.

Chapter One:

Basic Underlying Personality Traits

Just as there are layers of personality, there are several layers in an astrological chart. The building blocks of the chart are the planets, signs and houses. You'll see these terms scattered throughout this report. In a nutshell, the planets (plus the Sun and Moon) represent specific energies and drives. These drives each have a different purpose in the developing personality. The twelve signs of the zodiac represent qualities, characteristics and traits. The houses (the twelve divisions of the chart wheel or circle) symbolize the facets of a person's life. In the drama of life, the planets represent the actors, the signs show the roles the actors play, (including their mannerisms, costumes and props), and the houses show the setting and scene of the play.

Britney's Balance of Elements and Modes

There's another layer, too. Each sign represents the energies of one of the four elements: Fire, Earth, Air or Water, and the way these elements are balanced in a birth chart reveals a great deal about the person's basic personality. To find the balance of elements, we tally up the zodiacal signs of the Sun, Moon and other important points in the chart.

Doing this for Britney's chart, we see a rather even balance of Fire, Earth, Air and Water. This suggests that she probably has a quite well-rounded approach to life and the people in it. There may be an ease in relating to all sorts of situations, and a general comfort in changing circumstances. This even balance of elements can also indicate that Britney has the capacity to be especially tolerant and accepting.

The least influential element in Britney's chart turns out to be Water. With Water absent or weak, Britney can have difficulty understanding and accepting the emotional needs of both herself and others. Encourage Britney to accept and express her feelings more openly through creative and artistic endeavors. Music can be especially helpful. Getting physically in touch with Water by swimming, going to the beach, or enjoying an aquarium can help, too. Talk openly with Britney about learning to trust and value intuition, since this will help her feel more comfortable with inner sensibilities.

When an element is low or lacking there's no reason to be highly concerned. You can, however, look for creative ways to help Britney compensate. Focusing on what the lack of Water might mean for this child can prove beneficial. Do understand that an imbalance in elements should not be interpreted as a personality deficiency. Rather, it can indicate either a tendency to overcompensate or in some way to seek what is lacking. For example, as Britney matures, you might discover that she's drawn to others who seem to possess the Water qualities that seem to be lacking in her own chart.

Also, besides being one of the four elements, each sign is also Cardinal, Fixed or Mutable. These astrological modes (or action models) determine how a sign manifests its energy. In the case of Britney's chart, there's an emphasis on Mutable signs. This suggests that she is flexible and easily able to adapt. Developing objectivity and cooperation is important, but making final decisions or choosing sides can be really difficult. This fence-sitting can be just as torturous for her as it is for other people! Praise Britney for her versatility and teamwork, but watch for signals that indicate that she's becoming manipulative or has fallen victim to exploitation by others.

The Moon Sign and Early Personality Development

Although most people are more familiar with the concept of the Sun sign, during the earliest years a child expresses the qualities of the Moon sign more. That's because the Moon tells the story of feelings and pure emotion. So, during Britney's early childhood you might see more qualities that relate to her Moon sign. Expressing the Sun requires more self-awareness, and that develops later.

Britney's Moon in Aquarius can be seen in her love of sociable and mentally stimulating circumstances. She can have an especially profound mental and intuitive tie with Mother. Also, friendships will

be important, even at an early age. Britney needs room to develop self-reliance and independence, and probably has an intuitive sense of how to get help if needed.

Keep in mind that Britney is not a blank slate! Though these drives are basic ingredients in her developing personality, it is up to family and teachers to nourish and support these drives. In this way, they can help Britney to make the most of the special gifts that have been given to her.

The Sun Sign and Ego Development

The sign of Britney's Sun will show how she might like to be perceived, what she needs in order to feel motivated toward achievement, and what makes her feel significant and special in the world. This aspect of a child's personality tends to become more apparent after the earliest years, as the full expression of the ego takes some time to develop. However, even early on, Britney is likely to show at least some of the qualities of her Sun sign.

"Let's go!" may be Britney's consistent request. That's the drive from her Sagittarian Sun. This is the baby whose fussiness is most easily calmed by a walk around the block or a ride in the car. Motion feels natural, and a change of scenery can prove to be fascinating. Trips to the zoo or wild-animal park may be among Britney's favorite pastimes, and amusement parks are also likely to rank high on her priority list as she grows.

The Sun in Sagittarius stimulates a desire to experience life in the broadest sense. Ideas can be just as adventurous as actually going somewhere. While Britney might enjoy school if the teacher makes things interesting, she can just as easily become quickly bored if the subject material is too repetitious or is lacking in interest. Distractability can be a problem. Preteen, Britney loves to be around friends, and may have a keen desire to get a driver's license as soon as possible.

How Britney Deals with the Outer World

Another prevailing quality that's likely to emerge in Britney's early years is shown by the astrological sign on her Ascendant, also known as the rising sign. The Ascendant and the First House will signify Britney's physical appearance and how other people view her. Most of us have our self-image shaped by what other people tell us about ourselves. The Ascendant represents Britney herself, her basic attitudes, and how she presents herself to the world. It also shows what kind of environmental conditioning will shape her developing personality.

With Libra rising, boys and girls alike have a strong idea of personal image, and even at a young age may appreciate taking part in choosing clothes and colors. Most likely, Britney loves to feel beautiful. Britney is also inclined to show charm, grace and consideration toward others. However, she can be too eager to please and may be insecure in competitive situations.

Chapter Two: Nurturing Intellectual and Physical Development

Parents naturally watch for the signals that indicate a child's intellectual and physical progress. From baby's first words to performance in school, most parents note their child's development and keep records. Not only parents, but also teachers and other mentors need to provide the stimuli that will strengthen the mental and physical development of a child. This will help the child to master the experience of learning.

There are many factors involved in intellectual development. These include memory, judicial thinking, decision-making, speculative thought, and creativity. They also include the ability to conceptualize and communicate, and to apply rational thought to real-world situations.

In order to be whole, a child must achieve a balance between the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual parts of the self. Only then can the power of the intellect be used to its utmost. Otherwise, the mental capacities are likely to be overemphasized or misdirected in order to compensate for underdevelopment in another area.

Britney's Style of Absorbing Information

An important factor to consider in developing Britney's intellect is the individual nature of her thought patterns. The Moon in Britney's birth chart reveals the way that she will store her unique experiences in the vaults of her subconscious mind. Besides being the emotional storage-house, the Moon will also show the manner in which Britney absorbs information.

With the Moon in an Air sign, Britney is likely to think in a more abstract manner and to be at home with concepts like logic, mathematics and music. Also, for her, social interaction is likely to be a key to learning. Thus, reading can be enjoyable, especially if it's shared. She may be most comfortable when she knows that someone appreciates her ideas.

The speed at which the Moon was moving when Britney was born also has something to say about her learning style. The Moon can move from less than 12 to more than 15 degrees per day. In Britney's case, the Moon was moving at an easy pace. Its relatively slow speed suggests a strong need to observe a situation before making a change, and a reluctance to face unfamiliar ideas or situations. Therefore Britney may lose confidence if she's forced to move too quickly.

New situations will seem less threatening if Britney is allowed to precede any conclusions or action by cautious observation and due consideration. She may then do just fine in learning situations. Careful, structured circumstances can create the safety zone that allows Britney to move through education happily. The plus side of this gently paced Moon is that Britney tends to retain ideas easily.

How Britney Senses and Communicates

As a baby, Britney will start to explore and learn about her personal environment through her five senses. The senses are symbolized by Mercury. Over time, Britney will use these senses in an increasingly refined manner. As her mind gains the ability to integrate more and more information, her learning will increase. Britney's Mercury shows how she communicates her thought patterns – how she frames concepts and expresses them to others.

The years of Mercury's heightened developmental cycle are from ages seven to thirteen, when the connections between Britney and her world will be powerfully shaped. This is when a child masters language and refines communication skills. During these years Britney is likely to project the qualities of Mercurial energy with especial strength.

With Mercury in Sagittarius, Britney can be prone to blurting out thoughts and ideas. She likes to speak what she takes to be profound truths and is often interested in learning things that have moral mes-

sages. There is a thirst for knowledge, and an adventurous quality to her mind. Distractions can be a problem, but travel can be a good way to learn. Mercury in Sagittarius can jump in before any assessment is made, but this placement also confers the gift of being able to talk one's way out of trouble!

With Mercury conjunct Uranus, it can be a real challenge for Britney to stay with a subject long enough to master it. She loves to delve into something new, different and experimental, and won't enjoy repetition. Easily stimulated, thoughts can scatter like the wind. On the other hand, Britney may be exceptionally sharp and capable of grasping even complex information very quickly. Giving her every opportunity to progress at her own rate will reap its own rewards. Holding this child back just to satisfy a traditional structure could be frustrating to all concerned.

Mercury's location in the Third House indicates an eagerness to communicate and share what she knows. For Britney, it's best to encourage writing skills, story-telling, and reading as early as possible. She may also want to develop her manual dexterity, and she may be fascinated by tools, gadgets and technology. She will probably be a real talker. She might even develop an interest in sign language.

Building Britney's Confidence and Skills

The planet Jupiter supplies additional information about Britney's learning styles and needs. At first, she'll experience Jupiterian qualities through the encouragement of teachers and guides. Later, Jupiter will show how she expresses confidence, and what types of stimulation will build her learning skills.

Britney's Jupiter in Scorpio indicates that her approach to learning depends on how deeply she is involved with or connected to the material. Making learning personal will always help, since the value of abstraction can be less important to her than "how this relates to my life." When Britney is interested in a subject, there can be a kind of compulsion in learning about it. Whatever she doesn't like, however, she'll probably dislike with a passion!

Whenever you're dealing with intellectual development, it's helpful to keep in mind that encouragement and testing are two different things. Small children don't like to be tested – life is enough of a test for them! They do enjoy learning, but need to be encouraged to learn at their own pace. Finding that pace is one of the primary tasks of parents and teachers. Watch for signs that tell you when Britney is comfortable with a situation, and ready to push beyond it. Then stimulate that expression by setting fresh goals and opportunities to learn and to develop her mind.

Finding Fun and Encouraging Physical Development

There are many factors in an astrological chart that can indicate needs in regard to physical health. However, I feel that specific health strengths and weaknesses and their care are best dealt with using refined astrological techniques beyond the scope of this report.

One feature of childhood that we can explore here is where to find play and recreational activities that Britney would benefit from and enjoy. The planet Mars represents physical energy – the fuel that's needed to keep the physical engine running. The placement of Mars in Britney's chart gives helpful clues about her preferences for play and activity, including sports and achieving physical fitness.

Britney's Mars in the Twelfth House can indicate that she prefers to dream instead of risking physical distress. However, she could enjoy dance or swimming (though it may at first be a challenge to get this child to feel comfortable in water). As coordination improves, fitness activities like yoga might be appealing. Whenever Britney is developing any physical skill, creative visualization can be an exceptional aid.

Britney's favorite forms of recreation and sports could include racquetball, handball, table tennis, tennis, scuba diving, aerobic dancing, yoga, gymnastics, English-saddle riding, figure skating or baseball.

With her connection between Mars and Neptune, Britney has a potential for developing grace but there's also an extra physical sensitivity. Since this combination can put a damper on physical exuberance and vitality, she might prefer to channel her physical energy into creative activities such as playing music. She can improve her physical skills by using visualization. During teen years, Britney may harbor powerful dreams about her physical prowess or abilities. Encourage her to put her special ability to visualize together with action. In other words, help her to bring those dreams to life.

Chapter Three:

Embracing Emotional Drives and Needs

At different stages and ages, Britney will be developing different parts of herself. One reason why childhood astrology is different from adult astrology is that a child is in the process of becoming. Anyone who's been around children knows that at some stages of development a child is especially susceptible or emotionally vulnerable, and that these needs and sensibilities change as a child matures. A baby struggles each day to deal with a difficult-to-control body, but a child in elementary school is struggling to master social relationships. Each of the planets represents a different emotional need and expression, and at certain stages of development some planetary symbols become more emotionally charged than others.

Britney's chart illustrates her own potential emotional strengths and weaknesses, and the areas in her life where she may feel more vulnerable. It is important to explore these concepts through a lens of objectivity, since when dealing with our children's psychological and emotional issues we're likely to run into our own issues as well.

Britney's Basic Emotional Makeup

Britney's most powerful emotional needs are symbolized by the Moon. While the Moon is the primary indicator of early psychological development, its emotional needs remain with a person throughout life, continually growing and evolving.

The Moon symbolizes the reflective nature of humanity, the absorbing, subconscious mind that reflects the needs of the soul. Even as a baby, Britney will have had a strong inner awareness of what is happening. As she grows, she'll absorb more information and store it in her subconscious mind. Deeper awareness of her feelings will also grow.

The Moon is also the matrix from which habit patterns emerge, and so it indicates basic patterns of conditioning. These patterns are drawn from life experiences and filtered through the qualities of the Moon.

Additionally, the Moon symbolizes Mother and whoever else provides nurture, comfort and security. Mother and these other figures provide the model for how Britney will nurture and care for others, and — perhaps even more basically important — how this child will learn to nurture herself.

With her Moon in Aquarius, Britney prefers to stay away from sticky emotional expression, and may seem rather detached. Nevertheless, she is likely to develop strong ties to friends. It is important for Britney to find a way to feel unique and special. If that uniqueness isn't appreciated, she may become even more emotionally detached from those in her personal environment. Britney's inventiveness should be channeled into constructive directions, though a life that is too severely structured may engender a rebellious streak. Britney may actually feel a need to travel in space, using airplanes or other spacecraft.

There's an extra warmth in Britney's personality indicated by her Moon in the Fifth House. Britney loves to be entertained, and is also likely to be highly entertaining to others. She needs plenty of opportunity to develop her rare creative talents and to exercise her recreational interests. Since celebrations and expressions of joy and are a natural part of the Moon in the Fifth House, special days will definitely call for special events.

With the Moon in trine aspect to Saturn, Britney may possess very good emotional resilience and a generally strong feeling of personal safety and security. It's conceivable that she will enjoy being around adults and will show a strong tendency toward self-discipline. Getting through the different developmental stages of childhood may be a breeze. Though other dynamics could challenge this assumption, the sense of inner strength suggested by this aspect should at least be helpful. Even in elementary school years, Britney may seem to be the friend that others seek out first when they need support.

Britney's Developing Sense of Self

The development of individuality and a sense of identity is tied to the energy of the Sun, which is a major factor in determining "Who am I?" This radiance of Self will begin to emerge once Britney has developed enough mastery over basic bodily functions to start paying more attention to the outside world. It will really become focused once she's relating to others on a more frequent basis, especially during her school years.

Britney has the Sun in Sagittarius, which is described under "The Sun Sign and Ego Development" in Chapter One of this report. However, there are additional factors that color Britney's expression and development of her Sun energies.

In Britney's case, the Sun and Moon are in an easy sextile aspect to one another, indicating that Britney will tend to have a well-integrated personality. The parental support system is likely to be harmonious, with parents presenting a complementary influence in her's life. Also, it's easy for Britney to see the positive virtues of male and female without feeling that they are always destined to be in conflict.

Britney has the Sun and Mercury conjunct, creating an intimate connection between the ego or sense of Self on the one hand, and the communication of thoughts and ideas on the other. It may be difficult for Britney to separate the two realms, with the result that she may be especially sensitive if someone criticizes or challenges her ideas. This child needs and wants to be thought of as intelligent, because in her mind, she is what she says and thinks! In classroom situations, this could create a problem when Britney makes a mistake. Feeling that the intellectual error reflects badly upon her, Britney may have diminished self-esteem.

Once Britney learns to distinguish between her ideas and her identity, she can enjoy using the abundant mental energy that this aspect can give. Encouraging expressions like story-telling, public speaking, debate and creative writing will channel her need to have her ideas recognized and will contribute greatly to her sense of self.

How Britney Expresses Her Inner Feelings

Most of us are more comfortable if we can talk about our emotional experiences to someone special. A child needs to feel that it's okay to share feelings and ideas, and that she can talk with her parents about anything. Children who aren't given opportunities to communicate their emotional needs can develop problems communicating almost everything else.

The planet Mercury represents how we communicate. Though it isn't traditionally linked with the emotions, its role in the expression of feelings is highly important. Mercury's function in our lives is to link internal processes to the external world, and one of the most important links is sharing emotions.

Even at an early age, Britney may have ideas and ways of communicating that are very different from those of most of her friends. Her connection between Mercury and Uranus may signify that her thinking is highly original, but she may find that her unusual thoughts are alienating and then come to feel that she is "weird." To build her confidence, parents and teachers should show Britney how to use her original thoughts creatively. It is also helpful to reinforce her trust in her intuitive mind.

Loving and Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is another important part of Britney's psychological makeup. This is described by Venus. Throughout life, in order to encourage growth on every level, including the growth of self-esteem, a person needs the Venusian energy of love from others. Venus also rules value systems in general, as well as artistic expression (which is itself an important emotional outlet).

Selfish behavior can be Venusian, too. In earliest years, Venus may show up mainly as Britney's particular expression of selfishness. As Venus energy evolves, she will develop her capacity to share. After about age four, you'll see Venus expressing in a more outgoing manner, when she may finally want to give something to another person. The full involvement of Venusian development comes during the teen years, when falling in love becomes a reality.

Britney's Venus in Capricorn prefers being physically comfortable, but this child also needs her outdoor time. Fascinated by what's happening in the real world, she may show an interest in finances and things related. She'll probably enjoy games like Monopoly or SimCity, or role-playing games that allow her to be in control.

Emotionally, Britney can be reserved and may have difficulty showing affection. Sharing back rubs or mutually cuddling a favorite teddy bear are good excuses to allow Britney to feel good about getting close.

A connection from Venus to Jupiter tends to give Britney a strong desire to relate to others, and a great need to be generous. The expectations of others may be a problem, however, and so she will benefit by practicing the art of unconditional love.

Also, Britney may have great difficulty setting limits on what she wants. If her wishes aren't fulfilled, her disappointment may lead to acting-out behavior. Ultimately, parents need to teach her that it's unlikely that anyone will have everything that he or she wants all at once.

Britney's Venus-Saturn connection gives a tendency to feel inhibited about expressing love and affection. It can indicate low self-esteem. Britney may feel that to be loved, she must do certain things, or do things in a particular way. Such self-imposed restrictions on receiving love can be tremendously detrimental to the need to express tenderness openly. Britney may also associate love with fear: the fear that the love may not be there, or the fear that love will cause pain.

Whatever barrier Britney builds against intimacy, parents can help her by becoming sensitive to it. Developing a trust in her feelings can be frustrating for Britney. Once the sexual self begins to develop, it's important for her to be able to cope with these feelings without fear and guilt.

Since Venus also deals with the concept of beauty, it's possible that Britney will be overly focused on whether or not she is attractive. For better or worse, our society places a strong value on the way someone looks. Given the media exposure that children receive today, they, too, are being bombarded by images that they will try to emulate. If Britney receives messages from parents or teachers that there is a problem with her looks, then she will take it more seriously and is likely to worry about it. It is crucial for Britney to understand the many layers of beauty and to be taught how to accept herself with love – even with a few flaws that challenge the popular ideal.

Intense, and sometimes overwhelming, emotional expression is part of Britney's emotional profile. With a stressful Venus-Pluto connection, attachment can become a real problem for her, since once feelings of affection are there, they become deeply ingrained. Because opening up to the depths of emotion may hurt, Britney could come to feel that love is self-destructive. To guard against vulnerability, she could shut herself away from love entirely. This could be true especially if she has experienced some type of hurt, abuse or deep loss, and has not had a chance to understand it.

In order to bring healing, parents, guides and teachers must patiently show such a child how to express her feelings. Art and other creative activities can help, but these need to be done purely for the sake of self-expression, without judgment. Even when Britney seems to mistrust others, these forms of expression can at least help her learn to trust herself.

When sexual feelings arise, Britney will require a guilt-free outlet. During teen years this can be especially important, since negativity about these deep feelings can be damaging. If Britney can learn that sexual feelings are just another part of the Self emerging, the guilt will be less overwhelming. Parents can be supportive by empathizing with and talking about these "weird new feelings." What a difference this will make! The marvelous potential of this Venus-Pluto connection is that Britney can eventually learn that love is the ultimate healer, and that trust is the bridge to get her there.

Assertiveness and Anger

We've already looked at Britney's Mars as an indicator of her level of physical energy and its best avenues for expression. Mars will also play a major part in describing her basic emotional nature.

The assertive, active, and fiery qualities of Mars show up early in a child's development, making

themselves really obvious during the period called “the terrible twos.” Sometimes, when Britney is upset or hurt, her Mars will surface as anger. At other times, her Mars will show up as an attempt to test limits. Testing limits is a natural part of development, and every parent hopes that the child will be safe during those times. In adolescence, a child’s Mars may also show up as the assertive side of sexuality.

Parents face a tremendous challenge in helping a child to understand, accept and deal with this raw energy. Mars’ energy needs to be released in healthy ways, or it will surface as aggression and hostility. Parents need to teach a child that anger is a normal feeling. The important thing for a healthy adjustment in life is the way that the anger is channeled and expressed. If misdirected, the expression of Mars can be destructive and hurtful. However, as Britney learns to direct her need to be assertive and strong, she will begin to feel an increasing sense of confidence, courage and personal power.

With Mars in Virgo, Britney needs to keep those hands busy. As a baby, she may be fidgety and fussy if she’s the least bit uncomfortable. Toddler years may find her fascinated with dexterity-building toys, puzzles, and gadgets. As she grows, art, music, dance and sports like gymnastics may help her to further her capacity for dexterity and attention to detail. Since Mars in Virgo can be excessively critical of self and others, however, Britney may need to develop patience with the process of becoming skillful. Don’t expect Britney to be neat. Keeping all those tools and toys organized may not be nearly as much fun as pulling them off the shelf and putting them to use!

Confrontation may not be at all comfortable for Britney, since a stressful connection between Mars and Neptune in her chart tends to dissipate assertiveness and anger. Though Britney may have angry feelings, she may have difficulty finding an outlet for them. Or when she does express anger, it can leave her emotionally exhausted. Anger is not an easy emotion for Britney because it causes so much confusion. Also, Neptune’s idealism can block a realistic assessment of others, with the result that Britney may feel powerless or victimized. This can lead to escapist or addictive behaviors. During teen years, she may overcompensate for a lack of assertiveness by over-idealizing athletic superstars or by setting a goal of becoming a super-athlete herself.

Because of the high impressionability that Neptune can give, it’s easy to live in fantasy, and this child’s reality base may be limited or inhibited. For example, with Neptune connected with Mars, Britney might run into trouble playing too many video games, especially ones with violent content. Then, if situations prompt any kind of acting-out, she could carry it too far before she realizes what’s actually happened. The link between cause and effect may be difficult for this child to learn, but it’s a lesson that must be instilled.

Neptune can also, however, make a person more sensitive. With the Mars connection, Britney may have an increased sensitivity to pain, or a fear of it, and she may come to identify with the pain of others. This can result in a profound need to rescue other people from painful situations. During the preteen and teenage years, Britney may fall into the trap of being drawn into co-dependent relationships filled with addictive behavior patterns. Certainly helping others is admirable, but others must also learn how to help themselves. Most children don’t have the objectivity to understand this, and will simply identify with the other person. Parents may need to help this child to know when it’s constructive to help someone, and when she needs to keep a reasonable distance.

Neptune can give a natural talent for visualizing that will help Britney to cope with feelings of despair. Encourage Britney to bring visions of a more positive reality into action, to see that the hope for a better tomorrow is valid. Britney may be quite charismatic, and can have a positive influence on the lives of others. Music and dramatic arts can be good avenues for external expression.

Developing Britney’s Uniqueness

To find out how the qualities of ingenuity, rebellion and personal uniqueness are likely to surface in Britney’s personality, we look to the planet Uranus. While these traits may be evident in a very young child, they often don’t come out until teenage years, when young people most tend to rebel against the status quo.

Britney's Uranus in the Second House shows as an attraction to unusual things, including technological and electronic items. When it comes to money, she may have very little practical sense, and she may need to take extra care about keeping track of material things. She is likely to value friendships strongly.

Because Uranus spends about seven years in each sign, its sign is likely to be the same for all or most of the children in Britney's age group. While the signs of the slow-moving planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto don't give much information about individual children, they do give valuable insights into the generation into which the child was born. Looking at earlier generations can be instructive, because themes that crop up in one generation tend to reappear in succeeding generations when a planet returns to the same sign. In the case of Uranus, the next entry into the same sign takes place about 84 years later.

Britney's age group has Uranus in Sagittarius. During the 20th century, Uranus was in this sign from 1981 to 1988, when the focus of revolutionary challenge had turned toward education, religion, spiritual quests and the law. Britney and her generation are likely to demand changes in education that will provide not only the information and skills needed to make it in a rapidly changing world, but also for a kind of moral direction stemming from the humane principles of acceptance and tolerance. This is an age group that is likely to want to balance new uses of technology with higher principles. Though it grew up in a world in which information was expanding and the sense of one world was emerging, however, the ideal and the reality are unlikely to occur at the same time. Our ideas about change emerge easily, but it takes a while for humanity to catch up with them.

Hidden Emotional Currents

The energies of the planet Pluto may also be significant in Britney's emotional life. Because Pluto represents our deepest reservoirs of emotional energy, its qualities are not usually openly expressed in childhood. However, when Pluto connects to a major astrological point like the Sun, Moon, Ascendant or Midheaven, Pluto's profound level of emotional and transformational energy will be easier to see, even in a child's early years.

It's virtually impossible, however, for a child to direct an awareness of this energy. This is because the personal self must be well-developed before knowledge of this esoteric plane of consciousness can awaken. In fact, most adults have difficulty with this part of themselves! Although generally the energy of Pluto isn't consciously expressed during the childhood years, it may be unconsciously felt. Pluto can represent deep-seated anxieties or fears that are, for lack of a better description, absorbed into the psyche.

The house that Pluto is in signifies the area of life where you can help Britney get in touch with a need for healing and transformational change. With her Pluto in the First House, Britney can overreact to situations with high emotional impact, and may develop mistrust of new situations or people. This can be especially true if she discovers that people are not honest with her. This placement can give Britney a powerful charisma, and she can present a kind of intensity that is disarming to many observers.

Pluto takes nearly 250 years to make a complete circuit of the zodiac, and so its sign tells more about the transformational influence that Pluto will have on Britney's whole generation. Her generation was born when Pluto was in Libra, which most recently occurred from 1972 to 1984. Those born during these years may feel a special challenge to break down societal barriers concerning human relationships. They arrived at a time when the concepts of dysfunctional families and relationships, co-dependency, and other previously denied relationship patterns were brought into the open light of understanding. This generation therefore bears the burden of what has happened as these levels of awareness have been brought to the surface. On a personal level, Britney may feel responsible for renewing the institution of marriage based on the Libran qualities of balance and equality. Also, as they come into power, this generation may make historically significant alterations in the legal system.

Expressing Emotions in the World

We've already talked about the Ascendant as the window-dressing or mask of the personality. At a more fundamental level, the Ascendant is the interface through which the inner person meets the outer world. Therefore, to learn more about how Britney expresses her emotional self, we should also look at

whatever planets connect with her Ascendant.

Mercury's sextile to the Ascendant links Britney's personality to her intellect. Mental abilities will provide part of this child's "mask," and will be a sensitive trigger for her self-image. She is likely to be very talkative or otherwise communicative.

Britney needs to be different, since Uranus in a supportive sextile to the Ascendant stimulates individuality and ingenuity as part of self-expression. Because her mask is influenced by the desire to be unique, Britney may well be a trendsetter.

The Direction of Emotional Flow

Yet another factor that influences the emotional expression of a planet is whether it was traveling forward through the zodiac as it usually does, or appearing to move backward, as planets sometimes appear to do when they are viewed from the earth. When a planet is traveling backward, or "retrograde," it usually takes on a more inward expression.

Since there are no retrograde planets in Britney's chart, the tendency to pull certain expressions inward before externalizing them won't be as noticeable. This is neither a plus or a minus, but simply an indicator that it's easier for Britney to externalize all her planetary energies.

Chapter Four:

Fostering Creativity and Spirituality

Children seem to be inherently connected to spiritual awareness and expression. Their joy in the daily discoveries of life can be infectious, and a child's sense of wonder can bring light into everyone's life.

A child needs very little encouragement to seek truth and embrace a sense of the divine. But it's necessary to support this natural connection, because this can make all the difference in the child's ability to trust herself. One of the most significant ways to help Britney awaken and touch Spirit is to foster her creativity. It's not necessary for her to be a consummate artist, but she needs room to experiment with her creative self. The astrological factors that will particularly support her expression of spirituality and creativity include Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Neptune.

The Link from the Inner Self

In addition to being associated with education and development of the intellect, the planet Mercury plays an important role in self-expression. This is because Mercury links ideas and concepts from the inner self to the outside world. Mercury's position in the zodiac can suggest the creative outlets and mediums that are most suitable for a given child.

To develop Britney's Mercury-in-Sagittarius style of creativity in early years, you should encourage artistic play that will keep all those fingers busy. If she shows an interest in puzzles, you can provide these at any age. As Britney grows, she may be drawn to story-telling and to developing her oratorical skills. Time spent around animals is also likely to inspire her creative interests.

Creative Expression and Artistry

Venus, which is traditionally connected with art, is of course another important part of Britney's creativity. Venus represents beauty, an inner quality that every child needs to feel, identify and express. Venus also represents a means by which Britney can experience and express her feelings. While the Moon represents feelings, Venus can give voice and material expression to them.

Since Britney has Venus in Capricorn, her talents and creative interests stem from a love of the natural beauty of tangible, material things. Britney may show a special interest in building. At first, simple building blocks or interlocking blocks can encourage an understanding of basic construction. Later on, this interest could extend to woodworking, cabinetry, or even architectural design. Britney's natural sense of form could find expression in drafting or drawing, or in sculpting, which can be encouraged in early childhood through work with clay. Later, she might show an interest in creating art works from glass or ice. A natural wit could come out as comedic talent, or find an outlet in cartooning. Since Britney will love to give something personal to others, you could suggest making candles, jewelry or other crafts as holiday gifts.

Britney is likely to love music (possibly classical or something strongly rhythmic), and she could even show talent for musical composition. Dance activities might include ice skating or ice dancing, which her natural sense of self-discipline could turn into a serious pursuit. Whatever expressions are considered, the important thing is to encourage Britney to explore those that feel good to her heart.

In addition, Britney's Venus is in the Fourth House, which means that she'll tend to crave the family's approval for her talents and creative endeavors. Her creative abilities are likely to be directed toward her personal environment, so be sure to include her in decisions about her personal space (like choosing the wall color!). Also encourage her to start a personal scrapbook or to explore family history.

Venus and Mars in trine aspect can bestow natural talents in the arts, but may also simply be indicative of an ease in self-expression. There's a natural sense of rhythm, and a need to express it in some

way. Britney can be a bit lazy, but because Mars expresses as action, it's unlikely that she'll be exceptionally so. Nevertheless, there may be a limit to the amount of hard work she is willing to do!

A problematical square aspect between Venus and Jupiter tends to make it difficult for Britney to know her limits. Also, while she has some confidence in her abilities, she may have a mistrust or feeling of doubt about whether or not she's good enough. There could also be a lack of focus or discipline, and a pesky impatience with the process of developing creative refinement.

A square aspect from Saturn to Venus makes it possible that Britney will be excessively critical of her own efforts, thus restricting the creative flow and causing feelings of frustration. Procrastination could also happen. Britney may wait to share her creations until she feels absolutely certain that her efforts will meet with approval. Or, she may fear that she will disappoint someone whose endorsement carries great significance. Another possibility is that her creative talents could be overly structured so that spontaneity is lost or diluted.

Because of all of these possible Saturn-Venus meanings, loving guidance and care are exceptionally important. The good news is that this aspect can also give Britney a powerful drive to develop her creativity. Venus-Saturn may just mean that there are a few obstacles to overcome!

Since Britney has a dynamic connection from Venus to Pluto, there's an intensity, passion and power in her approach to creativity. She has a kind of sensuality and deep expressive need that demands externalization. It's crucial that she learn that expressing deeper feelings can bring tremendous satisfaction.

Expression could be through painting, music, writing, drama or other forms of art. Building sand castles – digging into the sand and transforming sand and water into a work of art – might be especially gratifying, even when it's all ultimately washed away by the tides. Britney might also enjoy restoring something old – for example, refinishing furniture.

Britney must, however, learn to express intensity without alienating her audience. It's also possible that she could mistrust her artistic abilities and destroy what she doesn't like. Creative expression is a very personal thing, and exposing vulnerabilities can be difficult. Because it's important that Britney feel good about her creations, she should be allowed to keep a project under wraps until she feels satisfied that it's ready for exposure.

Inspiration and Enthusiasm

The expansive energy of Jupiter takes Britney beyond purely self-centered awareness and encourages her to reach out and expand her personal universe. Jupiter brings a desire to grow, to broaden one's horizons, to feel adventure and joy. Through Jupiter, Britney can begin to exercise her sense of hope and vision, and her generosity and enthusiasm. Most important, when she's in touch with Jupiter, Britney is inspired.

The earliest awareness of Jupiter deals primarily with the concepts of sharing, positive thinking, enthusiasm and hope for reward. It's generally not until elementary school and preteen years that a child develops enough cognitive skill to manifest Jupiter's philosophical side. Moral questions flow through the realm of Jupiter, and learning higher principles from inspiring teachers and mentors is another way that this energy can take form in later childhood. While Jupiter gives the potential for exploring religious teachings and developing a personal philosophy, this may take a lifetime to develop. Jupiter is a function of the higher mind, the part of our consciousness that can connect with the Divine. During childhood, Britney is likely to express Jupiter mainly through endless questions and by feeling a natural wonder about universal principles and a Higher Power.

Jupiter's placement in Britney's First House indicates that she's likely to wear philosophical attitudes as part of her identity, and that spirituality will be particularly important in her life. Finding out that her outlook, optimism and generosity have a strong impact on the way others feel about her is likely to become an important spiritual lesson.

Britney may have a tendency to try to keep everyone happy. Also, Jupiter in the First gives a jovial nature, including a natural sense of humor. Laughter should be encouraged, but teaching when and where it's appropriate can be tricky! There could be a boisterous quality to Britney's personality, but gen-

erally she'll just tend to be joyful or exuberant more often than not. For Britney, any meaningful form of spirituality will need to foster this joy.

Dreams and Imagination

Then, there's the world of imagination, which is largely ruled by Neptune. What child isn't a master of make-believe? Britney should be encouraged to use her imagination and to trust her dreams, since these, too, are an important part of reality. It's important, though, to teach her to identify the difference between real and imaginary worlds. This can be quite a job, but it's an important lesson for a child to learn.

The sensitivity that Neptune bestows also allows Britney to connect with parts of the spiritual, non-physical realm. Neptune can be an expression of divine compassion, something that needs special support and nourishment during childhood. Britney can be taught to express this through charity. A child taught to give to others less fortunate is definitely a blessed child.

For clues about the best ways to engage Britney's imagination, what she likes to dream about, and the areas of life where she's most likely to exercise compassion toward others, we look to the house where Neptune is placed in her chart. Britney's Neptune in the Third House suggests a special sensitivity toward all forms of communication, and a special ease in understanding the emotional subtext in what others say. Britney will enjoy theatrical verbal expressions and may love reciting poetry, singing songs or telling stories. However, she may tend to daydream a bit too much.

Neptune's sign speaks for Britney's whole generation. Britney was born into the age group that has Neptune in Sagittarius, which occurred in the 20th century from 1970 to 1984. This generation entered adulthood at the beginning of a new millennium. They grew up in an era when a more widespread knowledge of different religions and ideals was being countered by a resurgence of orthodoxy and fundamentalism. Part of this generation's collective psyche is an awareness of heightened terrorism stemming from perceived insults to radical religious groups. Since Neptune's energy can help to dissolve barriers and locate the higher thread of any principle, this generation is likely to have a profound influence on the way the media present information and expose the truth.

Chapter Five:

How Britney is Likely to See Her Parents

Guess what? You can tell how Britney is likely to see her parents or other primary caregivers by looking at her own chart. Understanding how Britney perceives Mom and Dad can be especially helpful, since what Britney hopes to see and needs to experience from her parents forms the basis of her own sense of self. In this chapter we'll look at Britney's own personal view of mother and father figures, as well as of authority figures in general.

Projection is a key factor in human psychology. To better understand this concept, think of a movie projector, showing an image against a screen. In human psychology, the process of projection works much the same way. In the simplest terms, when Britney feels happy, the world looks bright, too. But if Britney is physically or emotionally low, her view of the world changes accordingly.

In their relationships with others, both children and adults will project their feelings and perceptions onto other people. The undeveloped aspects of the self are projected onto others usually as a means of "seeing" one's own feelings or needs. In other words, by projecting her needs onto the people in her personal environment, Britney is actually experiencing herself.

Sometimes the other people are reasonable targets for those projections. This is especially true if the connections are tied up with emotional or other commitments. For example, Mother represents the inner feminine self for boys and girls alike. A child looks to Mother as the person who will reflect his or her own nurturing, feminine needs.

Britney may, however, see things in Mother that Mother doesn't recognize in herself. It makes no difference whether Mother sees herself in this light. Britney holds these particular perceptions of Mother because Mother is a projection screen for Britney's inner needs for security. As Britney matures into adulthood, the way she views her mother will determine how she'll play a nurturing and mothering role toward others.

How Britney is Likely to See Mother

Britney's view of the mother figures in her life is shown by the placement of her Moon. A Moon in Aquarius suggests that Britney will see her mother as independent and very unusual, if not unique. To this child, Mom will seem free-spirited, innovative, and highly mental or intellectual, with strong ties to the community and outside world.

A supportive contact from the Moon to Saturn indicates that Britney's emotional bond to Mother tends to be especially strong and lasting. More than most children, Britney may feel that Mom is the ultimate safety net, and Britney may have a strong sense that Mom will always be there.

Plus, Mom is likely to be the strongest teacher in Britney's life. It is her lessons that will be the ones most deeply ingrained in this child's subconscious mind. Mom is the authority, and Britney is likely to respect the lessons she teaches. Mom is also the one who shows Britney how to take responsibility for her own needs.

What She Seeks from Father

Perceptions of her father and other male nurturing figures are mainly symbolized by the placement of the Sun in Britney's chart. The Sun, the primary masculine energy in astrology, is also described as a person's sense of self. A true sense of self is very limited in a young child, who is unlikely to "own" these qualities until the preteen years or later. Nevertheless, the development of self may be strongly tied to the initial relationship with the father and, later, to interactions with other significant male figures. If these important people in her early life are supportive and consistent, Britney will come to feel that her own individuality is reliable and strong.

With her Sun in Sagittarius, Britney may project the qualities of wisdom onto Father, whether or not Father thinks he's wise! For this child, Dad is the great teacher and knows everything. Learning from Dad can be special, and homework or school projects overseen or inspired by Dad will be presented with greater confidence.

Britney's Sun in the in the Third House may make Dad seem particularly knowledgeable. Also, this child may depend on Dad to provide communication links. Britney may not feel that her ideas are worthwhile until Dad acknowledges them.

Authority Figures and Stabilizing Influences

Another important need that children have is for solidity, structure and safety – and most children look to their parents to establish this for them. Though Britney will learn about these eventually, as a small child she won't be capable of understanding the ways of the world, nor will she understand the need for limits. It's up to parents and teachers to set these limits and expose her to the rules of life. These rules, tests and structures are shown in her chart by Saturn.

Many children are anything but delighted at the prospect of being "responsible" – that's what adults are supposed to be, not kids! Therefore, especially in childhood, Saturn energy may much of the time feel judgmental and limiting. Nevertheless, Saturn brings the discipline, structure, stability and relationship to tradition that every child needs.

Saturn will show how Britney needs to be stabilized and what she requires in terms of a sense of safety and security. Male and female parents, as well as teachers, can provide this stabilizing function in her life. The placement of Britney's Saturn will also show how she will relate to other authority figures and to authority in general.

Britney's Saturn in Libra seeks confirmation of equality and the importance of consideration for others. The relationship model presented by the parents will be especially significant for this child. If Britney is taught that she stands above others, the tendency to categorize people by class or social status will be difficult to undo.

Her Saturn being in the First House adds a desire for confirmation of the self. Britney therefore has a strong need for positive acknowledgment from parents and teachers. Also, since she will look especially to her parents to understand how to handle responsibility, it's important that her parents show consistency.

As Britney moves through the various stages of childhood, she will be able to take all the qualities and expressions that she once saw through others, and incorporate them into herself. The examples that Britney observes may become the pattern for her own self-expression. In some instances, however, she may see something that isn't worth emulating. That, too, can be a part of her learning process. During her childhood, Britney will have a grand opportunity to experiment and learn – hopefully while under the protective guidance of a loving family.

Conclusion

Here we've looked at the building blocks for the person who will become Britney as an adult. Childhood is a critical time because its vestiges remain throughout a person's life. To some degree, these fragments will play a role in her personal creativity, career choices and life path for many years to come.

I hope that this look at Britney's astrological chart has enlarged your understanding of the unique gifts, needs, problems and potentialities that she's brought with her into this lifetime. Perhaps by reading it you will have gained some insights that will enable you to further her chances of having a happy and fulfilling life, and of growing into the person she was meant to be.

May you savor the wonder of this precious new person, and enjoy every moment of your journey together!

An Afterword from Gloria Star

Whether you're looking into the life of a child dear to your heart, or recalling your own childhood through the lens of this report, it's always interesting to explore what astrology illuminates.

I've been a professional astrologer since 1975. My first book, *Optimum Child* (Llewellyn, 1987), came from a desire to show parents that exploring their child's astrological chart could be tremendously helpful during the challenges they would face. This book was based on observation of hundreds of children and many years of feedback. Since I wrote those first notes, I've had a chance to continue my research in this area, resulting in an expanded and revised book titled *Astrology & Your Child* (Llewellyn, 2000). That book gave rise to the observations in this report.

I've written other books, too. Among them, *Astrology: Woman to Woman* (Llewellyn, 1999) is especially for and about women. Instead of insisting that my readers try to figure out how astrology might apply to their lives, I prefer to write about real-life experience, and then bring astrology into this realm.

I love to travel, and teaching astrology in lectures and workshops both at home and abroad has provided a marvelous opportunity for me. Thousands of astrological charts later, I realize that I'm still learning! That's one reason I love this subject – there's no end to what you can discover.

If you're inclined to offer feedback about this report, I would greatly appreciate it. You can contact me at Gloria@GloriaStar.com, or phone me at (860) 664-3590.

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