

FAA Interpretation Exam

Section 2, question 3

Charlotte:

Born August 6 2019 at 1.30 pm in Melbourne, Victoria. ASC close to 22 Sagittarius

Charlotte's mother has come to you for two reasons: firstly; she would like a general understanding of her daughter's temperament and how she can parent her more effectively; and secondly, she is worried about the effect that the Melbourne lockdown has had on her child.

Charlotte had been a very happy and outgoing baby, but during the Melbourne lockdown, she had very little contact with anyone except for her two [doting] parents and has become anxious whenever she sees anyone other than her parents: this usually manifests as becoming distressed and breaking into tears. Charlotte has also developed quite a temper at home and is hitting her parents whenever she can't get her own way.

How can you address her mother's concerns and assist her to parent more effectively?

FAA - section 2-charlotte

Natal

6 Aug 2019, Tue

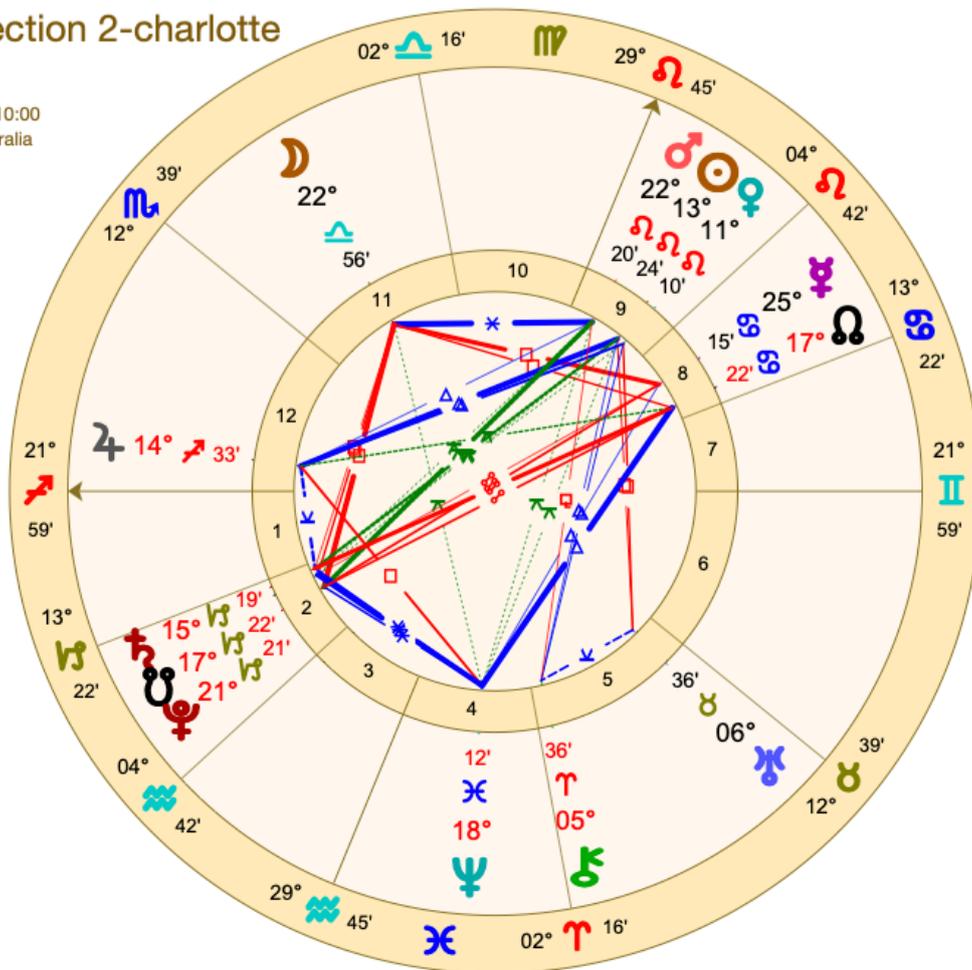
1:30 pm AEST -10:00

melbourne, Australia

Geocentric

Tropical

Placidus



As families grapple with modern parenting, astrology is a tool that can give insights and advantage to parents wanting to better understand their children. Charlotte's mum visits after a tricky time in world history, worried about the impact of lockdown on her daughter. There are signs of anxiety and anger that she's keen to understand and modify. As we explore Charlotte's chart, I aim to assure her mother that many of Charlotte's current post-lockdown responses correlate with normal stages of child development. However there are specific astrological factors that can be noted about her daughter's temperament and knowing these can provide awareness around Charlotte's feisty nature and the best way to handle her in the years to come. Lockdown has likely exacerbated some of her natural responses in less positive ways, with unusual circumstances giving Charlotte unimpeded access to her parents in a way that can't continue forever.

Sensitivity to her emerging toddler needs and suitable parental strategies can assist these issues and help Charlotte connect to her natural confidence, allowing her to take on the world and reach her highest potential.

Parenting children in the 21st century is not for the lighthearted. It's a serious business where conscious parenting, child enrichment and social media perfection conflate to place demands on mums and dads that leave previous generations bemused. With fewer offspring and more resources at their fingertips, today's parents explore every avenue in order to provide opportunity for their children. Astrology is an underused tool in this new parenting arsenal. Robert Hand points out that "the psychological legacy of childhood becomes the basis of the adult personality"¹, so it's pleasing to see a parent seeking astrological assistance, at such an early stage, to help her form parenting strategies. The insights gained will inform and embolden her approach to Charlotte over the years to come.

As a baby, Charlotte had been very happy and outgoing. Her mother can be assured that this will continue on - Charlotte will be open, outgoing, honest and energetic. A natural buoyancy and optimism will carry her through life (Sagittarius ascendent). Her chart ruler is Jupiter, placed positively in its own sign. It's a "guardian angel placement"² that brings luck and a tendency for her natural optimism to be met with karmic reward (Jupiter in 12th house). Will luck come because of her carefree and freedom-loving approach to life? Or will her lucky nature allow her to escape the onerous realities of life? Either way, she is likely to be idealistic, kind to the less fortunate and a strong supporter of the underdog. As she grows, she may show an inner righteousness and strong, personal ideals about fairness (Sag ASC, Jupiter retrograde, 12th).

This energy will spill over to form a core part of her character and vitality (Jupiter trine Sun). In fact, this Fire energy of Sagittarius is met and matched by a triple dose of

¹ Hand, R. (1977). *Planets in Youth*. Whitford Press, USA. p. 5

² Tompkins, S. (2006). *The Contemporary Astrologers Handbook*. Flare Publications, UK. p. 299

feisty Leo planets. Charlotte has a strong emphasis of Fire planets in her chart, giving her “a vitality and spontaneity which is often envied and sometimes resented by more peaceable types.”³ She is emotional and spirited naturally, with a need to be physically active to release pent-up energy. With such a need to be self-directed and in charge, she may seem rebellious at times, keen to decide her own path and less keen to do as her parents want (Leo Sun, Venus, Mars, Sagittarius ASC, Jupiter). The plus side of this untamed energy is a warm, proud and loving little person. She’ll be charming, affectionate and keen to connect with others (Sun conjunct Venus). Her natural flair and showmanship will entertain and amuse those around her. These same astrological factors indicate that that she’ll be interested in the wider world and new adventures, but still very keen to be at the centre of things (9th house Leo). Her interesting and creative ideas will make her quite an original spirit (Sun/Venus square Uranus in 5th). As she grows, there is great potential to channel this physical energy into something like dance where life can be the dazzling stage she enjoys (Leo stellium). Later, she may even pursue the performing arts as a career. (Sun rules MC, Venus rules 6th).

Softening this intensity, is a Moon in Libra. Known for a love of harmony, this energy also brings a creative slant to life (Moon ruled by Venus in Leo). Again, she will be drawn to connect with others. It further emphasises her friendly nature - a person who needs socialising and to be surrounded by friends (Moon in Libra, 11th). Altogether, Charlotte’s core self is a cohesive mix of motivation, consideration and fun - a little powerhouse of energy and positivity who brings joy to those around her (Leo Sun, Sagittarius ASC, Libra Moon).

Let’s look at how Charlotte might perceive her parents. Meeting Charlotte’s mum in person would help to ascertain if she displays similar qualities to her daughter. Liz Greene suggests, “the sign at the Midheaven generally suggests the particular factors which

³ Greene, L. (1978). *Relating*. Samuel Weiser, USA. p. 79.

predominate in one's relationship to one's mother."⁴ With more egalitarian parenting this century, particularly during lockdown, it's likely that one parent displays similar, strong Leo tendencies (MC in Leo's anaretic degree) and is extremely self-directed, which may bring both familiarity and tension in years to come - as this sign is known for its need to be the sole centre of attention! I would discuss sensitively with Charlotte's mum the need to enjoy their shared qualities and encourage her to recognise Charlotte for these feisty tendencies, rather than try to negate them.

One parent does look to have an easier relationship with Charlotte than the other. The fact that mum is seeking this reading may give clues that it's her relationship where more tension lies, and this would correlate with the astrology (t-square with Moon as apex planet). Underlying Charlotte's bubbly exterior is an emotional intensity and depth of feeling (Moon square Pluto, Pluto rules 12th). A far less forthright energy exists simultaneously that could explain some of the anxiety that Charlotte's mum describes.

There are almost two distinct parts to Charlotte. Her firey, self-confident exterior (Leo and Sagittarius placements) and another, more complex inner emotional life (cardinal t-square with Moon, Saturn, Nodes, Pluto, Mercury - none in Fire) where emotions are harder to access (Moon square Saturn) and her responses are overwhelming and sometimes blown out of proportion (Moon square Mercury). When she's upset, Charlotte's emotions are likely to take over and she may feel misunderstood at times (Mercury in Cancer, 8th). While these traits are standard toddler behaviour, for Charlotte they are likely to persist and learning how to manage these big feelings and mood swings may become a lifelong theme (t-square). All people have less enjoyable parts of their personality that need constant work, and it's lucky for Charlotte that her mum is gaining insights now that can help her along this path of self-empowerment.

⁴ Greene, L. (1978). *Relating*. Samuel Weiser, USA. p. 79.

Other contributing indicators of this complicated energy include a tendency towards manipulation or jealousy (Moon square Pluto) and a fear of being abandoned (Moon square Saturn). All of these feelings will feel weighty and she will need her parents to listen to her concerns seriously. Her thinking may become fixated at times, needing to talk things through compulsively until she can try to understand her emotions (Moon opposite Pluto/South Node/Saturn). There will be a basic ongoing challenge for her to reconcile a variety of contrasting life concepts. How will she combine her sensitivity and insensitivity? How will she find a good balance between being attached to others or self-sufficient? And as she grows there may be themes of finding work/life balance (all 2nd/8th house). Soothing this will be her genuine love of connecting to others and this love of people may be the remedy that stops her dwelling for too long on unhelpful patterns of behaviour (Moon in Libra, 11th).

Circumstances are conspiring to make this stage of Charlotte's life eventful. There are several factors contributing to her current anxiety. Lockdown has occurred right at a time when she is making the shift from babyhood to toddlerhood. Christopher Green points out that all toddlers have "anxiety over separation which starts at about 7 months of age and intensifies to a peak just after the first birthday and gradually wanes over the next 3 years"⁵. For Charlotte, this natural phase coincides with the end of a lockdown period where she was in constant sight of both parents and given no chance to ease into the idea that mummy and daddy wouldn't always be there. Green also states that "Toddlers want attention 24 hours a day and if you give this, then they will want 25 hours" - a concept that Charlotte's mum is probably quite familiar with.

Combining with this is Charlotte's naturally strong personality, which is starting to make itself known more as she grows and gains her first taste as an independent being. With three personal planets in Leo, this little girl is the epitome of "Mommy! Daddy! Look

⁵ Green, Dr C. (1995). *Toddler Taming*. Doubleday, AUS. p. 36

at me! Look at me!... The child wants her glorious victory to be acknowledged. For it to be real, it must be witnessed"⁶. There is no doubt that Charlotte is a delightful firecracker of a child who will happily absorb as much attention as she can get - both her developmental stage and Leo planets will insist upon it - but her parents should rest assured that other outlets are available to help meet these needs. With strong social instincts (Sun conjunct Venus, Moon in Libra, 11th) Charlotte will do well in groups and now that lockdown is over it's the perfect time to start with these endeavours and encourage her to enjoy a wide variety of social contacts (therefore taking the pressure off mum and dad). At first the separation anxiety will be tough for Charlotte. It's likely that she idealises her parents and her home environment (Neptune intercepted in 4th) so patience will be needed to manage the normal dependency of babyhood which has been highlighted by the lockdown months. To make the break, at first try leaving her with grandparents or other familiar people. Leave favourite cuddly toys or security blankets. Sessions can be short. After time, she will start to enjoy life away from home. She is a natural explorer (9th house planets), with a strong need for security (Saturn, South Node, Pluto in Capricorn, 2nd) that can be managed sensitively.

Charlotte's anxiety and teariness is likely coming from her deep emotions which she is experiencing for the first time (Mercury in Cancer, 8th, opposite Pluto, square Moon). This energy is totally different to her everyday drives (Leo and Sagittarius placements) and will take time - probably many years - for her to integrate well. Just understanding the existence of these brooding thoughts and feelings may help her parents both tolerate and work with this side of their daughter's psyche.

The temper is also evident in the astrology. Mars rules the combative and competitive part of the personality and again, this is placed in Leo. Natural self-confidence and vitality are the plus side of this placement while selfishness and an

⁶ Forrest, S. (2019). *The Book of Fire*. Seven Paws Press, USA. p. 47

inability to control her anger are the shadow side (Mars in Leo, quincunx Pluto, sextile Moon). And don't these traits also sound straight out of toddler central casting! Again, there's a correlation between a normal phase of child development and Charlotte's natural personality.

Managing this temper is important. Jo Frost says, "young kids sometimes lash out physically because they can't resolve things in words"⁷. It can be attention seeking behaviour - even negative attention may be desirable for a toddler Leo. Using consistent discipline techniques will help over time, matching Charlotte's need for boundaries (Saturn in Cap, 2nd) and consistency (Fixed Sun, Mars). Parenting fashions change regularly, so Charlotte's parents can research and decide on what discipline strategies they're comfortable with, but once chosen it should be administered robustly, with sensitivity and predictability.

To help her manage the more confusing parts of her personality, Charlotte's parents should encourage her creative endeavours. Exploring her self expression will be valuable (empty leg of t-square in 5th). As mentioned, physical self-expression such as dance or drama could be perfect (5th house ruled by Mars). At times she may feel as though her talents are inferior to other kids (Chiron in Aries 5th) but a little encouragement and coaxing from parents should help her overcome these insecurities.

Learning to manage her emotional nature and some of life's bigger mysteries will be another ongoing theme throughout Charlotte's life (North Node in Cancer, 8th). Utilising her love of socialising and relationships with a broad range of people may help her gain experience about the wide variety of human experience and help her to understand her own disparate parts (Moon in Libra, 11th square the nodal axis). For now, just encouraging a broad range of activities and experiences with others will help satisfy a primal part of her nature (strong 9th and Moon in 11th).

⁷ Frost, J. (2005). *Supernanny*. Hodder and Stoughton, UK. p. 160

Charlotte looks to be a fantastic little girl, who expresses so much energy with sincerity (Sun, Jupiter, Saturn all dignified). Her vivacious and charming self (Leo Sun, Libra Moon) will greet the world with optimism and joy (Sagittarius ASC), making her a well liked (Venus conjunct Sun) and popular friend who cares about others (Jupiter in Sagittarius, 12th). With so many winning qualities, it may be confusing for her parents to understand how she can also contain moments of anxiety and anger (T-square, in particular Mercury opposite Pluto, Mars quinquax Pluto). But learning how to support their daughter's vulnerable side with a mix of love, consistency and boundaries will enable Charlotte to blossom into life, filled with natural exuberance and confidence. The recent lockdown, whilst unfortunate in timing, should prove to be no impediment in the long term for their little girl. I suspect that in the years to come, she will happily take on the world and it should be a wonderful journey to watch!

References

Books/e-books

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Software:

Astro Gold for Mac

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