

Sledding

Eight children were sharing a sled. The sled belonged to Adam, but he was generous and willing to share! They were having a great time! They would go down the hill then run back up and go to the end of the line. One parent took a picture while they were all in line. Use the clues to determine where each person was standing when the picture was made.

- * Diane was behind Helen and Frances but before Beth.
- * Carl had only one boy before him in line. The other two boys were behind him.
- * Both Eddie and Carl were before Diane.
- * Two boys were the last two people in line.
- * Frances was not third in line.
- * Diane was directly behind the boy in the red coat, and Frances was directly behind the boy with the black hair.
- * The girl directly in front of Greg had long hair.

first _____

second _____

third _____

fourth _____

fifth _____

sixth _____

seventh _____

eighth _____

Sledding Answer

This problem is best solved visually. When names are listed vertically, their order is unknown. A colon between names indicates that those two people are directly beside each other. A dash indicates that there may or may not be space between those two people.

first.....last

clue 1: Helen Diane Beth
 Frances

clue 2: boy Carl boy boy

clue 3: Eddie Diane
 Carl

clue 4: The two boys in clue 2 are last.

clue 6: boy : Diane
 boy : Frances

clue 7: girl : Greg

By combining these clues:

Helen
 Frances Diane Beth boy boy
 Eddie Carl

Since Diane is directly behind a boy, and Eddie is before Carl, Carl must be directly in front of Diane. That means the boy in front of Frances must be Eddie. Greg can not be last, since he is directly behind a girl. Greg must be seventh in line. Adam, the only remaining boy, must be last. Based on this information, the new picture is:

Helen Carl : Diane Beth Greg : Adam
 Eddie : Frances

That accounts for all eight children. We do not know the order of the first three, but there are only two options: Helen, Eddie, Frances or Eddie, Frances, Helen. Since Frances can not be third (clue 5), the second option must be true.

In conclusion, the finishing order (from first to last):

Eddie, Frances, Helen, Carl, Diane, Beth, Greg, Adam