

What's Your Bent?

(Personality Matters when it comes to learning.)

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If you have more than one child, you know first-hand that they come to us uniquely “crafted” by our Heavenly Father--no two are alike! This fact is especially challenging when homeschooling and trying to plan what to teach. This session will:

- Address the imperative given to us in Proverbs 22:6 to “Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent]” (Amplified Bible),
- Include several “personality” test options to help you understand your children and how they learn best
- Provide teaching/learning strategies to help you utilize this information to inform your homeschooling efforts.

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go...”

5 Advantages of Personality Awareness

1. You will be able to play to your _____ and help your children play to theirs.
 - a. Learn how to _____ and control them.
 - b. Reduce _____ and difficulties.
2. Reveal and clarify inherent _____.
3. Gain a greater understanding and _____ of strengths of those in your family.
4. Become more effective in your _____ with your children and in motivating and encouraging them.
5. Make your daily life a lot less _____, more enjoyable, and more productive.

Now for the test.

Five Minute Personality Test

LION – BEAVER – OTTER – GOLDEN RETRIEVER

Choose the item in each line that is most like you and put a **4**. Then pick the item that is next most like you and put a **3**. Then **2** and then **1** which is least like you. Do this across the page for each list of descriptors.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Likes authority | ____ Enthusiastic | ____ Sensitive Feelings | ____ Likes Instruction |
| 2. ____ Takes Charge | ____ Takes Risks | ____ Loyal | ____ Accurate |
| 3. ____ Determined | ____ Visionary | ____ Calm | ____ Consistent |
| 4. ____ Tries New Ideas | ____ Like to Talk | ____ Enjoys Schedule | ____ Doesn't Do Things That Surprise Others |
| 5. ____ Competitive | ____ Shares Ideas | ____ Dislikes Change | ____ Practical |
| 6. ____ Problem Solver | ____ Enjoys Popularity | ____ Gives in To Others | ____ Factual |
| 7. ____ Productive | ____ Fun-loving | ____ Avoids Confrontations | ____ Responsible |
| 8. ____ Bold | ____ Likes Variety | ____ Sensitive | ____ Prefers Perfection |
| 9. ____ Decision Maker | ____ Spontaneous | ____ Nurturing | ____ Detail Oriented |
| 10. ____ Persistent | ____ Inspirational | ____ Peace Maker | ____ Logical |

TOTAL



Lion – Column 1

This personality likes to lead. The lion is good at making decisions and is very goal oriented. They enjoy challenges, difficult assignments, and opportunity to get better at things. Because lions are thinking of the goal, they can step on people to reach it. Lions can be very aggressive and competitive. Lions must learn not to be too bossy or to take charge in other's affairs.

- > Strength: Goal-oriented, strong, direct
- > Weakness: Argumentative, too dictatorial
- > Limitation: Doesn't understand that their direct leadership can sometimes hurt others, hard time expressing feelings

Otter – Column 2

Otters are very social creature. Otter personalities love people. They enjoy being popular and influencing and motivating others. Otter can sometimes be hurt when people do not like them. Otter personalities usually have lots of friends, but not deep relationships. They love to goof-off. (They usually have messy rooms.) Otters like to hurry and finish jobs. (Jobs are not often done well.) The otter personality is like Tigger in Winnie the Pooh.

- > Strength: People person, open, positive
- > Weakness: Talks too much, too easy going
- > Limitation: Remembering past things they were supposed to do, follow through with discipline

Golden Retriever – Column 3

Good at making friends. Very loyal. Retriever personalities do not like big changes. They look to feel safe and secure. Can be very sensitive. Very caring. Has deep relationships, but usually only a couple of close friends. Wants to be loved by everyone. Looks for appreciation. Works best in a limited situation with a steady work pattern.

- > Strength: helpful, calm, reassuring
- > Weakness: Indecisive, indifferent, unable to express emotional, too soft on other people
- > Limitation: Seeing the need to be more assertive, holding others accountable

Beaver – Column 4

Organized. Beavers think that there is a right way to do everything, and they want to do it exact that way. Beaver personalities are very creative. They desire to solve everything. Desire to take their time and do it right. Beavers do not like sudden changes. They need reassurance.

- > Strength: High standards, order, respect
- > Weakness: Unrealistic expectations of self & others, too perfect.
- > Limitation: Seeing the optimistic side of things, expressing flexibility

REFLECTION:

1) What is your strongest personality type? _____
• Name three things (based on this personality) that you have or are good at: _____

2) What is your weakest personality type? _____
• Name two things (based on this personality type) that you may have to work on while cooperating with your family or within a group.

Choose which personality quiz you will have your children do. Make sure it is one that gives immediate results and is easy for you and your children to understand. A suggested list has been provided for you below. The first three in the list are specific personality quizzes. The fourth one gives a variety of options and does not require the participants to provide their email address to take it.

- a. www.mint-hr.com/smalley-trent.html (animal personalities online version)
- b. www.focusonthefamily.com/bring-your-bible/personality-test/
- c. www.16personalities.com/
- d. www.onlinepersonalitytests.org/

Notes

