

Lesson 4 - Children Characteristics: Differences and Similarities

➔ Children are Different

Learning Styles

1. _____ Learners	2. _____ Learners
3. _____ Learners	

Personality Types - *Personality Insights* - www.personality-insights.com

- **Why Study Personalities?** To help you understand how God created you, the child, and your team so you can better discern how to interact and serve others.

<p><u>D</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doer, bossy, determined, direct/blunt, goal-oriented, confident, etc. 2. Focus this child on being a positive leader. 3. Biblical example: Paul 4. "FIRE!" - This personality is concerned about getting things done, not on planning things out. 	<p><u>I</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social butterfly, interesting, impulsive, silly, friendly, may have trouble having deep friendships or being real with people, or needs recognition. 2. Focus this child on bringing joy to others but with sensitivity to the needs of others and the situation/setting that is going on around him. 3. Biblical Example: Peter 4. "Ready, Aim, Squirrel" (Highly distracted personality)
<p><u>S</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helper, needs security, slow to change, team effort, sweet, submissive, etc. 2. Focus this child on being a servant with only one master. 3. Biblical Example: Abraham 4. "Ready, Ready, Ready" (Has a hard time with making decisions ("Aim") and taking that action step ("Fire")). 	<p><u>C</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analytical, perfectionist, stats and facts, critical thinking, careful, can come across as cold, self-sacrificing to get the job done 2. Focus this child on excellence but with grace for themselves and others. 3. Biblical Example: Moses 4. "Ready, Aim, Aim" (Focusses so much on precision that this sometimes keeps him from executing a task ("Fire")).

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Other Ways that Children are Different

- **Upbringing and Family Life**
- **Salvation**
- **Gender, Age, Maturity, etc.**
- **Birth Order**
- **Love Languages** (*Quality time, acts of service, gifts, words of affirmation, and physical touch.*)

You can jot down general notes about these categories here.



General Tips

When teaching children, whether your own or those in your class remember:

1. Each child is unique and will have a different combination of these and other traits. You may need to discuss with your team how to best meet all these various needs within your class as you go through your curriculum. Sometimes, curricula will have suggestions written into the lessons.
2. We are not teaching a curriculum or following a certain formula. We are teaching children with various personalities, learning styles, and needs.
3. Observing and listening are two of the greatest keys to learning who your child is.
4. Different characteristics impact the others. For example, a first born child might have a dominate personality and be more mature for his age group. Or someone that has the spiritual gift of service may also have a supportive personality.
5. Just because you have strength in one area does not mean you should not or cannot develop another. For example, a child may tend to be more shy/reserved in his personality, but that is not an excuse to be rude or unfriendly to others. This child may need to be intentionally encouraged/taught on how to introduce himself and/or reach out to others.
6. Have grace for yourself and the child as you learn and discover one another. Some kids will have a different personality than you so the journey is always an adjustment and requires flexibility.



Children are the Same

1. Children need _____.

2. Children need to develop good character.
3. Children need to be challenged to _____ .
 - i. Topics that interest them
 - ii. Asking good questions
 - iii. Reading/Research
 - iv. Presentations (PowerPoint, poster board, skit, video, verbal presentations, etc.)
 - v. Experiences (things they can see, taste, touch, hear, application, challenges, reflections, etc.)
 - vi. Discussions, as well as debates and role plays
4. Children are _____
5. Children are seeking to make sense of the world around them.

	Step 1: What is true?	Step 2: Why is something true?	Step 3: How do I communicate that truth to others?
Grades	Preschool- 2 nd grade	3 rd grade and older	5 th grade and older
Summary/ Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facts and WHAT is true/right. • Busy learning information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explaining why something is true and giving evidence to show that it is true gives kids confidence that what you are teaching is based on reality. • A child's worldview is said to be set by age 14.¹ Establishing the truth and why it is the truth must be done early to establish a firm foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defending and sharing what you know in order to plant seeds of truth in the lives of others. • This step is important so that children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ are not ashamed of their faith. ○ can answer other people's questions or doubts. ○ invest in the lives of others by sharing what they learned.

¹ Children – A Biblical Perspective, Doherty - Pg. 17

6. Children need _____ appropriate for their age group (e.g. involvement during the lesson, actions, games).
7. Children need to be assessed.
8. Children need to be invested in.



Key 1: Take time to focus on the child as a person, not just as a pupil that has to listen to your lesson.

Key 2: Know your students personally through observation and listening.

Key 3: Win and hold their heart.

Key 4: A child doesn't care how much you know until they know how much you care.



Resources for Further Study on this Topic

Personality Insights - www.personality-insights.com

Recommended:

- DISC Parenting Flip Charts
- Leadership Flip Charts
- Educational Flip Charts
- All About Bots All About You - Child DISC Assessment Profile Booklet
- Four Pals Mini Series (*Children books featuring each one of the DISC personalities through a different character. This series encourages children to understand themselves and their friends based on their personality*)

Book - Presenting with Style by Robert A Rohm and Tony Jeary

Book - Different Children, Different Needs- Adaptive Parenting by Dr. Charles F. Boyd

Personality Assessment for Kids from In His Grace, Inc. -

www.inhisgraceinc.com/html/disc_definitions.html

Sorry, but Christians don't need Enneagrams. – Uploaded by Wretched -

<https://youtu.be/WjRr02jLlho>

Book - The Birth Order Book by Dr. Kevin Leman

The 5 Love Languages - www.5lovelanguages.com (*Includes children books to facilitate discussions with your children on this topic*)

Book - The 5 Love Languages of Children by Dr. Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D.

Spiritual Gifts Article - Spiritual gifts survey - what are the different spiritual gifts the Bible mentions? <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-gifts-survey.html>

Book - What You Do Best in the Body of Christ by Bruce Bugbee

Character Resources – www.networkerstec.com/character.html