

Working with Temperaments

ITTI Module 1, Lesson 3

WEEK TWO

The Temperament Assessment Scale for Children

By answering the following questions for each child, you can increase your understanding of the temperaments of the children you serve.

1. **Activity Level.** How much does the child wiggle and move around when being read to, sitting at a table, or playing alone?

High Activity 1 3 5 Low Activity

2. **Regularity.** Is the child regular about eating times, sleeping times, amount of sleep needed, and bowel movements?

Regular 1 3 5 Irregular

3. **Adaptability.** How quickly does the child adapt to changes in her or his schedule or routine? How quickly does the child adapt to new foods and places?

Adapts quickly 1 3 5 Slow to adapt

4. **Approach/Withdrawal.** How does the child usually react the first time to new people, new foods, new toys, and new activities?

Initial approach 1 3 5 Initial withdrawal

5. **Physical Sensitivity.** How aware is the child of slight noises, slight differences in temperature, differences in taste, and differences in clothing?

Not sensitive 1 3 5 Very sensitive

6. **Intensity of Reaction.** How strong or violent are the child's reactions? Does the child laugh and cry energetically, or does she or he just smile and fuss mildly?

High intensity 1 3 5 Mild reaction

7. **Distractibility.** Is the child easily distracted, or does she or he ignore distractions? Will the child continue to work or play when other noises or children are present?

Very distractible 1 3 5 Not distractible

8. **Positive or Negative Mood.** How much of the time does the child show pleasant, joyful behavior compared with unpleasant crying and fussing behavior?

Positive mood 1 3 5 Negative mood

9. **Persistence.** How long does the child continue with one activity? Does the child usually continue if it is difficult?

Long attention span 1 3 5 Short attention span