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. Plot your responses on the accompanying graph using different colors for each child in you care.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Low Activity High Activity

BIOLOGICAL RHYTHMS / RHYTHMICITY

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Regular Irregular

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 or places?

FIRST REACTION

How does the child usually react the first time to new people, new foods, new toys, and new activities?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Approaches Withdraws

SENSITIVITY / SENSORY THRESHOLD

How aware is the child of slight noises, slight differences in temperature, differences in taste, and differences in clothing?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Low Sensitivity High Sensitivity

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?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Mild Reaction High Intensity

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?

QUALITY OF MOOD

How much of the time does the child show pleasant, joyful behavior compared with crying and fussing behavior?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Positive Mood Negative Mood

PERSISTENCE

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Low Persistence High Persistence