Temperamental Responses

The Easy Child

Easy tempered children are easy going. They adapt well to changes and respond positively to new situations. They appear to be calm and in control. Easy tempered children get into schedules easily. A child with an easy temperament is easy to point out since they smile a lot. They are also easy to comfort; it doesn't take long for them to calm down. Since these children are generally good and easy to take care of, there is a risk that they might not get the attention they need. Children with an easy temperament tend to be overlooked because adults focus their attention on the children with slow-to-warm-up and/or difficult temperaments.

The Slow-to-Warm-Up Child

Slow-to-Warm-Up children look generally easy, but when they are placed into a new situation/environment, they act different. When dealing with new people, they tend to become reserved and protest. This can be seen through crying and/or clinging. Slow-to-Warm-Up children tend to be more cautious, requiring them more time to become more relaxed with new people and new situations than those less cautious. In the school environment, this innate temperamental trait can be seen by those children who often sit in terror at the thought of being called upon to answer a question and/or read aloud. Slow-to-Warm-Up children's trouble with transitions, change of activity, or routine cause society to label them as shy, timid, and/or anxious children.

The Difficult Child

Difficult children are known to be unpredictable, withdrawn, non-adaptable to change, and extremely intense in emotions. If a new situation of problem arises, behaviors may be
intensified; children may have a hard time adapting in the classroom and controlling emotions. Low self-esteem can be shown through their lack of happiness and difficulty making friends. Children with this temperament are also easily aggravated and distracted. Frustration occurs often when he or she does not understand the task at hand.

The Disorganized Child

A child that does not fit into any of the above responses is labeled as disorganized. This means that a disorganized child may show a blend of characteristics that have no consistent pattern of the nine dimensional traits of temperament. It may be more difficult to assess the needs of disorganized children due to the fact that their behaviors are unpredictable.