


We're all different shapes, sizes, and appearances, possessing our own minds and senses. But, in general, we'll fall into one of the four personality types based on the DISC test. Gary Smalley and John Trent used to help children understand what the outcome of the test meant for them by giving each personality type an animal to represent it so it could be easily understood.



“Lions”

DETERMINED
 COMPETITIVE LIKES TO LEAD
 DECISIVE RISK TAKER
 WILL NOT GIVE UP EASILY

Do you have an overconfident, argumentative child who hates routine? What may appear to be defiance could be that you have a problem solver, risk taking, decisive, future entrepreneur. Give this little man or woman a job where they can see results and you will get a highly motivated youngster going to work. Keep in mind their biggest fear is being taken advantage of.

People I know who are Lions



“Otters”

INFLUENCING LOVES PEOPLE
 ENTHUSIASTIC PERSUADING
 CHANGES MIND QUICKLY TRUSTING

Is your child the class clown who doesn't take things seriously? Do they appear not to be listening? Are they wanting to be liked and popular with his or her friends? Do they talk a lot and are very expressive with their gestures and facial expressions? If so, you may have one of the most inspiring and influencing loyal youngsters on the block. These young men and women have a great desire to see everyone happy and bring the party to you. Be careful though, if they don't succeed and feel rejected, they can shut down.

People I know who are Otters




“Golden Retrievers”

STEADY ENJOYS GROUPS LOYAL
 PEOPLE PLEASING PATIENT
 VERY KIND AND RESPECTING

Does your child seem to be a pushover? Are they fearful of change? Do they get their feelings hurt easily or are they sensitive to criticism? If so, you have the compliant youngster that will help you keep the peace. These kiddos are loyal team players who you can depend on to get conflict resolved quickly. They are patient and empathetic in their relationships and will do their best to have everyone get along. Loss of security is their biggest fear so introduce change early.

People I know who are Golden Retrievers



“Beavers”

ORGANIZED INDEPENDENT DEEP THINKER
 LIKES DETAILS AND FACTS CONSCIENTIOUS

Is the owner's manual a go-to resource for your highly detailed child? Are their toys aligned and neatly placed on the shelf? Do they tend to over analyze situations but seem to keep their feelings to themselves? If so, you may have the next Albert Einstein living under your roof. These engineer types will be on their game to prove what you say to be true or not to be true. They are anchored in reality through an even-tempered analysis. Be prepared if and when you criticize, they know why they did what they did and will expect a reason for the criticism.

People I know who are Beavers

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK IS TO HIT THE TRAILS! You'll use this family activity to gain insight into your own personality and that of your child. You'll communicate more effectively and celebrate your discovery as you plan out and embark on this adventure together. When you hit the trails, you'll likely see the differences pop out and it will give you a great opportunity to discuss them and learn together.

PLAN YOUR "HIT THE TRAIL" EXPERIENCE You can do this on your own...or invite the family in the decision making. (The second will bring the personalities out right away!) However you do it, plan an adventure to "hit the trails" in a way that perfectly suits your family. Of course, that could be complicated if you have a child who is a strong Otter and wants to just be let loose to experience adventure with others...and another who is a strong Beaver who desires a thorough plan and would rather do things slowly (and possibly more independently). That's why this adventure is just the one to help you see your personalities and discuss them. We asked several boys and girls to share some of their most memorable trail outings. They reported everything from "hiking a trail" to "riding horses or ATVs" to "a walk downtown."

TALK AND LEARN TOGETHER Somewhere along the trail, stop and read the story of creation from Genesis 1 to your children and share your thoughts. Consider asking your children some questions to get them thinking.

- What is your favorite part of the creation story?
- What do you think was God's favorite creation? Why?
- Do you think God created anything accidentally or without purpose?
- Is there something about yourself that you don't like?
- Where do you see yourself in the creation story?

Read Ephesians 2:10 in a version that declares your child to be a masterpiece. Explain that no two masterpieces are alike. You could share the test results with them at this point and go over the strengths and challenges of each personality represented. Ask your child:

- What do you think God has given you as a strength? (Be prepared to share what you believe your child's gifts are)
- What do you think God has given me as a strength?
- What are some things you like to do to help others?
- How are we different from one another?
- How can we appreciate our differences?

PRAY: End your family activity in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you see yourselves as He sees you, love the parts of you that sometimes don't seem so loveable, recognize the strengths and talents He's given each person in the family, and believe that all of those things about you are "very good."