

Understanding & Dealing With Your Children's Personality



Grades 5 & 6 Parents' Night



A VERSE TO LIVE BY...

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” [Matthew 18:10]

INTRODUCTION

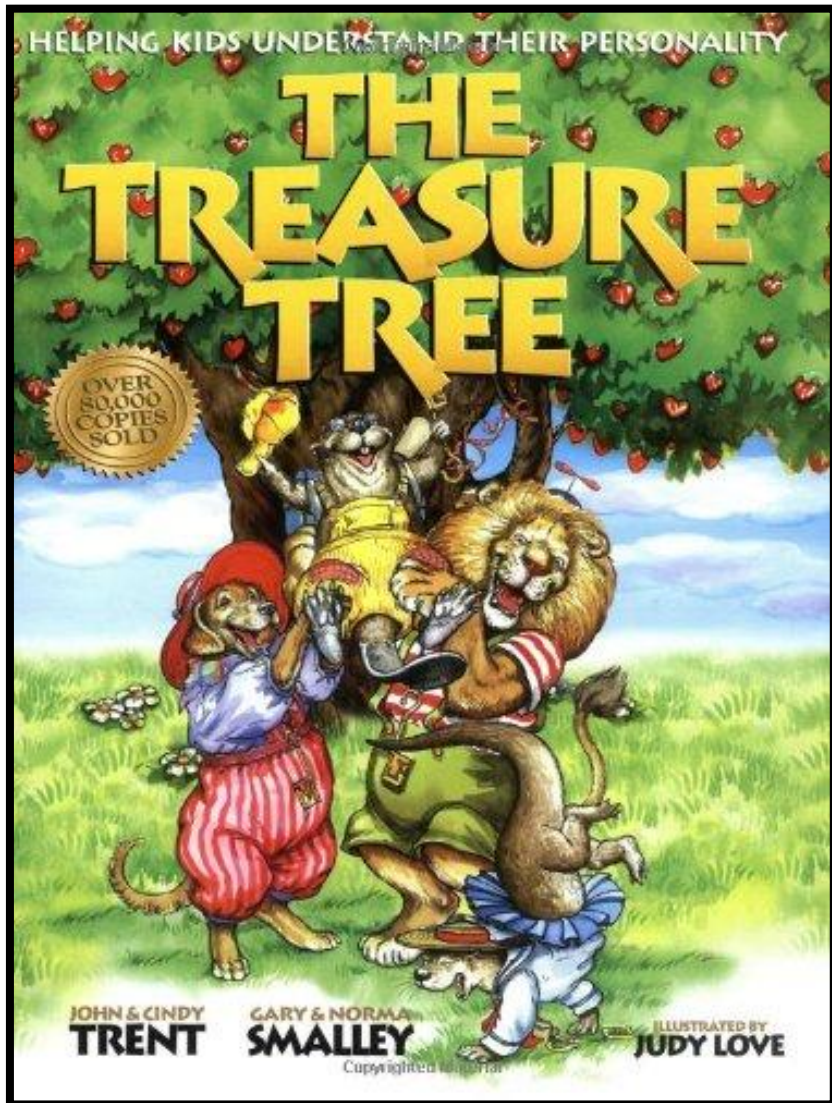
- As parents, we like to think we know our own kids, but we don't always have the full picture.
- Sometimes we struggle in dealing with our children because our personalities clash with theirs!
- Personality is almost completely laid down by the age of 7 (critical years)
- However, important secondary character traits only begin to develop during the teen years.

Personality Typology

- ↗ Helpful way to understand your personality's:
 - ↗ Strengths
 - ↗ Weaknesses
 - ↗ Trends
 - ↗ Preferences
- ↗ Learn best ways to deal with each personality
- ↗ Caution around labeling and becoming stuck!
- ↗ Majority are for Adults and Teens
- ↗ Teen Insights Profile & **LOGB Personality Testing**

LOGB Personality Test for Children

- There are only **four** animal labels to remember (although you may be a combination of two)
- Kids “get it” when you explain that their personality is strong like a **lion**, playful like an **otter**, friendly like a **golden retriever** or hardworking like a **beaver**.
- Comes with a book for young children (ages 4 and up) to help them understand their personality and how to dealing with siblings’/others’ personalities



The Treasure Tree
helps kids **identify** their
own broad personality
type and also
appreciate the
strengths in siblings
and classmates who
are “not like them.”

Benefit of Understanding Kids' Personalities

- “I can **love my kid well** by understanding how the Lord has uniquely created them.”
- Change the WAY/PROCESS I use with my children → Positive Interaction → Positive Desirable Outcome
- Not frustrate my children
- Engage them & help them grow and expand the expression of their personality

Benefits (cont.)

- A reality check for parents, helping us consider how *our* personality type *rubs* up against our kids' personality types.
- To put it more pointedly, it gives clues to how we, as parents, may be stressing out our kids, or even crushing their spirits.
- But first, what's the makeup of your family? How many lions, otters, beavers or golden retrievers live under your roof?

LOGB Quick Basic Assessment

1. Which word below sounds **MOST** like you?
 - A. Deliberate
 - B. Takes Charge
 - C. Takes Risks
 - D. Loyal

LOGB Quick Basic Assessment (cont.)

2. Which word below sounds most like YOU?
- A. Promoter
 - B. Competitive
 - C. Orderly
 - D. Dislikes change

LOGB Quick Basic Assessment (cont.)

3. Which word below sounds most like you?
- A. Avoids details
 - B. Factual
 - C. Enjoys challenges
 - D. Deep relationships

LOGB Quick Basic Assessment (cont.)

4. Please select the phrase that sounds the most like YOU.
- A. How was it done in the past?
 - B. Let's keep things the way they are.
 - C. Trust me! It'll work out!
 - D. Let's do it now!



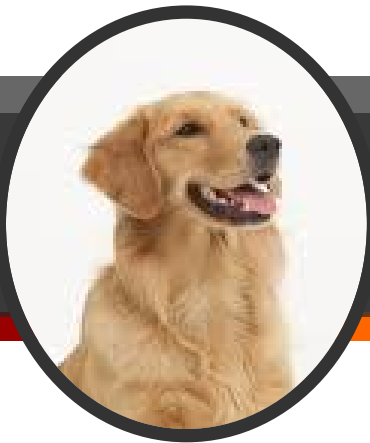
LION

- **Strengths:** Bold, adventurous, determined and competitive, lions are “take charge” types who love solving big problems.
- **Challenges:** Impulsive decision-making; can be too direct or impatient with others or doesn't listen; may seem more interested in their goals than their relationships; bored by routine and chit-chat
- **Personal motto:** “Let's do it now!”



OTTER

- ↗ **Strengths:** Energetic, fun-loving and optimistic, otters can chat for hours and are great at motivating and inspiring others.
- ↗ **Challenges:** Energized by novelty and so avoids details or lacks follow-through; overly trusting; may set unrealistic goals or seem unconcerned about risks or meeting deadlines
- ↗ **Personal motto:** “Trust me! It’ll work out!”



GOLDEN RETRIEVER

- **Strengths:** Easygoing, empathetic and loyal, golden retrievers are patient listeners and peacemakers who highly value their relationships with others.
- **Challenges:** Easily hurt or holds a grudge; needs routine and time to process change or major decisions; ignores their own needs to keep the peace; explanations meander
- **Personal motto:** “Let’s keep things the way they are.”



BEAVER

- **Strengths:** Analytical and detail oriented, beavers like to do a job well and to ponder all the implications before making a decision.
- **Challenges:** Can frustrate others with their precision and desire for details; their impulse to troubleshoot new ideas can make them seem like a “wet blanket”; too critical of self and others.
- **Personal motto:** “How was it done in the past?”

HOW TO INTERACT WITH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES



EYE OPENER FOR PARENTS

- A **lion child** may resent being micro-managed, and may need to learn to respect other people's opinions and feelings.
- An **otter child** may need help establishing the self-discipline to complete homework and “boring” tasks; because they crave approval, they may have trouble accepting criticism.

EYE OPENER FOR PARENTS (cont.)

- ↗ A **golden retriever** may have trouble taking risks and facing new settings; because they're typically undemanding, they may feel invisible in the family.
- ↗ A **beaver child** may fret too much over mistakes or imperfections in schoolwork, or let details hinder their progress; they need help to realize their value isn't connected to their performance.

FOR LION PARENTS

- Gentle words and soft-spoken answers might not come easily for the lion but they might be necessary to avoid hurting the children God has entrusted to their care (Trent).
- Beware of your tendency to be domineering and to jump to conclusions: don't discipline your kids before you've heard their side of the story.
- Seek out your kids' opinions and perspectives before you make a decision.

FOR LION PARENTS (cont.)

- For your **lion** child, model recovering from anger.
- Remember that your **otter** child really craves your affirmation and encouragement.
- Make sure your **golden retriever** child has a chance to express their opinions or desires, and is not just giving the answer that makes you or others happy.
- Remember that your **beaver** child is not necessarily challenging your ideas, they just need time to think through the ramifications.

FOR OTTER PARENTS

- ↗ Remember that not all your kids enjoy rushing from one fun activity to the next.
- ↗ Your routine-loving golden retriever or beaver child may be stressed out by your busy agenda.
- ↗ Following through on your good intentions is important too: it can hurt your children when you forget your promise to arrange a play date, or to pick up the supplies they need for a project.

FOR OTTER PARENTS (cont.)

- When your **lion** child shows resistance, don't be tempted to relax the rules – they need consistency.
- Remember that your **otter** child sometimes *can* get down in the dumps, so don't be flippant or minimize it.
- Slow down and be patient with your **golden retriever** child; unlike you, they need lots of down time and find comfort in that “same old routine” that bores you so. Work hard at spending deep, one-on-one time with them.
- Be careful to keep your promises to your **beaver** child and respect any obvious need for tidiness and adherence to a schedule.

FOR GOLDEN RETRIEVER PARENTS


- Though you're a compassionate, sensitive parent who wants to make everyone happy, there are times when you need to stand your ground instead of bending the rules to avoid conflict.
- Remember that conflict in families is normal and you can demonstrate how to work things out.

FOR GOLDEN RETRIEVER PARENTS (cont.)

- Model compassion and kindness for your **lion** child; don't be tempted to relax the rules when they resist you; give them opportunities to lead.
- Make sure your **otter** child always feels loved and accepted by you, even when they wear you out.
- Try not to favour your **golden retriever** child over your other children, even though you both bond so well.
- Don't panic when your **beaver** child throws down the gauntlet and insists on having things done their way.

FOR BEAVER PARENTS

- “As children grow older,” warns Trent, “they can see in the beaver parent a list of rules and regulations which can draw out that ***‘wet paint’*** response at times. Children test limits.”
- Focus on all the things your kids are doing *right*, not the few things they’re doing wrong.

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- Respect your **lion** child's need to control *some* things in their life and do them *their* way; when things must be done *your* way, take care to fully explain why.
 - Recognize that, for your **otter** child, long conversations and fun times with friends are not “just nice to have” but essential, so balance learning responsibility with fun.
 - Your **golden retriever** child needs you to be warm and approachable, and to put your tasks on hold each day long enough to draw out your child's thoughts and feelings in conversation.
 - Model for your **beaver** child that not everything has to be done perfectly: sometimes “good enough” is good enough.

CONCLUSION

- Because as parents we get so used to being the authority figure, we can get duped into thinking our way – our personality – is the one *right* way to be, and so we try to mould our kids into replicas of ourselves.
- We may be the parent, but that doesn't make us perfect. We need God's coaching/guidance to find balance, and sometimes the attributes in our kids that drive us crazy are the very things we are lacking ourselves.

A **WORD** TO REMEMBER

“[God] places us with people,” reminds Trent, “even kids that are different than us, not to frustrate us, but to really build into our life and to complete us – not defeat us.” [Focus on The Family Broadcast]