

Scoring Directions for Handout 4-3 Buss and Plomin's EAS Temperament Survey

Reverse the number you placed in front of items 6, 18, and 19 (that is, 5=1, 4=2, 3=3, 2=4, 1=5)

**Add the scores for items 2, 7, 10, and 17 for an Active score.
Add the numbers 1, 6, 15, and 20 for a Sociability score.**

The emotionality disposition consists of three parts:

Add items 4, 9, 11, and 16 to get your Distress score.

Add items 3, 12, 14, and 19 to get your Fearfulness score

Add items 5, 8, 13, and 18 to get your Anger score

Discussion: The EAS Survey measures three temperaments: Emotionality, Activity, and Sociability. **Emotionality** refers to the intensity of emotional reactions. Children who are high in this disposition become frightened and angry very quickly; as adults, they easily become upset and display a “quick temper.” **Activity** represents a person's general level of energy output. Children who are high in this disposition do not sit still long and prefer games of action; high scoring adults keep busy most of the time and prefer active to quiet pastimes. **Sociability** relates to a person's tendency to affiliate and interact with others. Both children and adults who score high on this disposition seek out others and generally enjoy their company.

Buss and Plomin argue that temperaments are largely inherited. The evidence they present from several twin studies is persuasive. Identical twins show significantly more similar temperaments than do fraternal twins. The average correlations for Emotionality, Activity and Sociability were .63, .62, and .53 for identical twins and .12, -.13, and -.03 for fraternal twins.

The authors recognize that although heredity may point personality in a certain directions, the environment also influences the course of development. So, although a highly emotional child is more likely than a less emotional one to become aggressive, parents who reward problem-solving skills over the overt expression of anger may shape the child into a cooperative, altruistic adult. Obviously, however, infant are not blank slates on which parents may “write their child's personality.