

## **Teacher Education Institute (TEI)**

Director: Dr. David L. Mollet, 6656 Reservoir Lane, San Diego, CA 92115

Tel: 619-463-1270 Email: [tei@cox.net](mailto:tei@cox.net) URL: <http://members.cox.net/tei>

### **Temperament Choleric**

The following describes an archetypal image of the choleric child. It is important to remember, however, that in real life we are a mixture of the traits of the different temperaments. Although one will predominate, all of us, at one time or another, will express traits of each of the other temperaments.

The descriptions that follow, although accurate, are not true representations of a child if they are studied in isolation from each other. One needs, therefore, to consider, not only the dominant temperament but also the subsidiary ones in order to obtain a proper perspective of the feelings and thoughts of a child. This note (which will not appear, for reasons of space, re the other temperaments) is equally appropriate to each temperament.

There is usually something solid, compact and concentrated about choleric; they may well be stockily built and walk with a firm and definite step. Their energy is directed almost totally outwards and they are deeply interested in the world and what people do in it.

Once they are involved in a task they will want to see it through to completion; without thought or sensitivity they will take on the leadership of a group. They tend to see problems and decision making in terms of black and white and are quick and positive in their decisions. They do possess many of the qualities that make a good leader but their tendency to dictate can be annoying to their peer group.

They are assertive and if things go wrong assertiveness can easily turn to aggression; they can quickly lose their temper and can be impatient and inconsiderate of others mistakes and weaknesses.

They appear full of self-assurance and they may well oppose opinions of others merely because they did not originate from themselves. In their relationships they are competitive and any kind of obstacle or opposition will spur them on to greater efforts. They feel their own strength quite keenly and may well wish to demonstrate it; one result of this is that they will almost always seek confrontation in a situation rather than conciliation.

Choleric, in the first stage of child development, will be very strong willed and determined. They can very easily become the dominant member of the group or family.

In the second stage they should be moving beyond their own egocentric thoughts and need to be taught to consider the feelings of others; for example, realising that other people might have an opinion that is worth listening to.

In the third stage the more positive qualities should be the ones on which relationships are based. Some of these qualities are the constructive use of personal initiative, the desire and energy to achieve objectives and the application of their ability to organise.

As we have seen the choleric is open and competitive. They do not mind confrontation, and like to win and be first in the things they compete in. They like making quick decisions and tend to evaluate situations in terms of black and white or with as few alternatives as possible. Some of the occupations that would be attractive to choleric are in the business world; the political scene and other areas such as sport, military and administration.