

Teacher Education Institute (TEI)

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Temperament Sanguine

Many sanguine children are of slender build with an appealing and bright intelligent face. On many occasions there is no indication of deep or lasting experience, unlike, for example, that of the melancholic.

One reason for this is that they move from one task to another and from one impression to another without retention. When impressions are not held or retained they fail to become experience. Sanguine children therefore, may have difficulty in building up a store of experiences which gradually add to our maturity and powers of perception.

At the same time sanguines are probably the most attractive of children. They show a lively interest in whatever is happening and they are usually entertaining and eloquent. Yet one of their main characteristics is their tendency to follow their inclination without thought or hesitation.

In many instances they lack sufficient resources to see a task through to its completion yet, at the same time, they are always ready to start a new one. They are also very adept and ready to make what they sincerely believe are good reasons or excuses for leaving one task and starting another.

Sanguines are open and friendly in their relationships and enter them, at least on a superficial level, easily and quickly. On the other hand they can just as quickly become bored with new friends or acquaintances and move on to new pastures. They can however talk with conviction and enthusiasm and can carry other children with them when basically they have not thought out the consequences of their own or their friends' actions.

If adversity strikes they will quickly make excuses which might have the foundation of a truth within them, but which will be more an expression of their imagination and their desire to avoid any unpleasant repercussions. It is difficult to draw the line between truth and lies, reality and fantasy when listening to sanguines.

They do not take life seriously and may well be unreliable and lack loyalty. They are, however, easy going and their company is enjoyable so other children will be attracted to them.

In the first stage of child development sanguines will continually move from one activity to another, from one impression to another. Teachers should attempt to influence sanguines so that by the second stage, their haphazard and flippant approach to life is diminished. They should begin to persevere with their work and be able to plan their activities.

If sanguines can learn to make sustained efforts and to consider the effects of their behaviour on others then their warm, enthusiastic, open and generous nature can find fulfilment.

As we have seen sanguines are gregarious and persuasive yet find difficulty in making lasting commitments, or accepting the status quo. Many sanguines will be attracted to the areas of selling and marketing where their talents of persuasion can be put to constructive use. Occupations which involve travel will also be appealing; most sanguines like to continually obtain many different impressions. Others will seek work in the vast area of the entertainment industry.