

# 9 TYPES OF CHILDREN

## Questions to Discover Your Child's Enneagram Type

### Overview

- The Enneagram symbol (any\*a\*gram; *ennea* is Greek for nine, and *gram* means drawing) is a map for self-discovery and growth that describes the 9 basic personality types by accurately explaining *why* we do what we do. It focuses on our heart's motivations which is protecting ourselves from our Core Fear and striving to obtain our Core Desire.
- The Enneagram recognizes nine very different yet valid views of reality. By learning the "why" behind the way you and your children think, feel and behave, you gain more understanding, compassion, mercy and forgiveness for yourself and them.
- Parents, first discover your type. How does your type influence how you parent your children?
- Each personality type has specific ways in which they want to be treated, seen, and loved. By knowing your child's type, you will be able to learn how to love them from their point of view.
- By loving and understanding your child from their personality's perspective, allows them to feel heard, seen,



validated, respected, and loved. Using the Enneagram can radically change your relationship with them.

- **Remember:** your child is ultimately the one who can reveal *why* they do what they do. **Please hold loosely 2-3 types** for each child until they are old enough (late teens) to accurately discover their type. Use this questionnaire as simply a guide.

### Type 1 - Moral Perfectionist

**Desire** to be a good boy or girl by doing things right, accurately or correct

**Fear** being bad, evil, wrong, and punished

**Does Your Child:**

- have a strong inner critic that is constantly telling them what they should do without you needing to?
- do their chores and what is asked without you reminding them?
- have a "know-it-all" attitude about everything and correct those who have different views or ways of being?
- parent you on how to be more organized or clean?
- fear being bad, wrong, and punished?
- act more like an adult and struggle with being a playful child?
- try to be perfect in almost all areas of life?

### Type 2 - Supportive Advisor

**Desire** to be liked, wanted, and loved

**Fear** being unwanted and unloved

**Does Your Child:**

- see other people's needs and try to help everyone else first before they see their own needs?
- get their feelings hurt easily?
- feel other people's feelings (overly empathetic) and get drawn into other people's needs or problems?
- more often than not help others with advice or an act of service?
- manipulate others into getting what they want by being helpful to others?
- try to be seen as a good student and desire to be liked by teachers?

### Type 3 - Successful Achiever

**Desire** to appear successful and admirable

**Fear** being a failure, unsuccessful, second place, incompetent, and exposed

**Does Your Child:**

- always strive to accomplish and complete a task successfully?
- know how to socially adapt to any situation naturally and are liked by most?
- seem to be able to have a healthy dose of confidence and motivated to excel in their many interests?
- have a quick and efficient mind?
- like things neat and organized?
- like to be well dressed, look good, and appear to have it all together?
- like to have others see their successes and even show off or brag?



### Type 4 - Romantic Individualist

**Desire** to be unique, authentic, and focus on their feelings.

**Fear** being plain, mundane, original, emotionally cut off, defective, and flawed

**Does Your Child:**

- see the world in a unique way and long for beauty?
- get their feelings hurt easily?
- seem to live more closely toward a melancholy state and even dip into depression from time to time?
- feel "different" or "flawed" compared to others especially in the family?
- allow their feelings to take them into fantasy (make believe, dress up)?
- get overwhelmed by their emotions?
- often want the possessions that others have?
- need to be unique and different?
- tend to be artistic and seek beauty?
- feel misunderstood and different?

### Type 5 - Investigative Thinker

**Desire** to be curious and understand everything

**Fear** being depleted, invaded, intruded on, obligated, and drained relationally

**Does Your Child:**

- enjoy their alone time and strongly prefer to be alone to engage in their own interests (reading, learning)?
- tend to be shy and introverted?
- desire to know how things work and ask deep searching questions?
- tend to stand back and observe more than get actively involved with other kids?
- struggle when others pay too much attention to them or invade their privacy?
- seem to not know or care about what is socially acceptable at times?
- seem aloof or deep in their mind?

### Type 6 - Loyal Guardian

**Desire** to be safe, secure and supported

**Fear** of fear itself, unsafe, chaos, uncertainty, blamed, in trouble, without support, guidance, and security

**Does Your Child:**

- want to feel secure and safe?
- try to be loyal to their friends?
- like to argue the opposite side of an issue?
- try to get others to like them by entertaining or pleasing them?
- seem to be hard to understand because they change often – example: fearful to courageous, introverted to extroverted, weak to strong, careless to careful...
- have a restless and worrying mind that tends to think of worst case scenarios so they can prevent them from happening?
- need reassurance and guidance to calm their anxieties down?
- have trouble making up their minds so they seek advice or guidance?

### Type 7 - Entertaining Optimist

**Desire** to be happy, enjoy new experiences, stimulation, and fun.

**Fear** having to deal with unpleasant feelings, being deprived, limited, bored, and missing out on something fun

**Does Your Child:**

- seem optimistic and happy most of the time?
- make and have lots of friends?
- enjoy being in the lime light?
- have a restlessness about them and always seeking new fun stimulations or adventures?
- despise being bored or feeling deprived in any way?
- strive for freedom, joy, and enjoyment?
- love trying new things or new experiences?
- resist discipline more than most?
- like to do many different things but sitting in school is very difficult for them?

### Type 8 - Protective Challenger

**Desire** to be strong, energetic, and protect oneself.

**Fear** being challenged, controlled, harmed, manipulated, and at the mercy of injustice

**Does Your Child:**

- use strong aggressive energy or anger to keep others from controlling them?
- seem very assured of themselves and their opinions?
- not back down from a conflict if someone else starts it?
- have a lot of energy, desire, and strength to do and achieve what they want?
- when they sense injustice, become angry and very strong (even physically intervening if needed)?
- have a very tender heart on the inside but has difficulty showing it to most?
- have a soft spot for animals and babies?
- get accused of being a bully?

### Type 9 - Peaceful Mediator

**Desire** to avoid any kind of conflict so they can have inner stability and peace of mind.

**Fear** being in conflict, overlooked, shut out, and in any kind of discordant relationship

**Does Your Child:**

- want everything to stay pleasant?
- avoid conflict by not voicing any strong opinions?
- tend to seem "sweet" and "accepting"?
- go along to get along?
- at times become stubborn and will not budge?
- when overwhelmed start to "check out" by watching tv, using the computer, or simply avoiding what they need to be doing?
- seek comfort by being close to you?
- have calm energy that seems peaceful to others?
- get distracted easily?

\*\*For an additional resource, purchase: *The Enneagram of Parenting* by: Elizabeth Wagele

