

California Child Q-Set  
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Items to be sorted across 9 categories with a distribution of  
5, 8, 12, 16, 18, 16, 12, 8, 5

1. Prefers non-verbal methods of communication.
2. Is considerate and thoughtful of other children.
3. Is warm and responsive.
4. Gets along well with other children.
5. Is admired and sought out by other children.
6. Is helpful and cooperative.
7. Seeks physical contact with others (touching, hugging, holding, or being held).
8. Tends to keep thoughts, feelings, or products to self.
9. Develops genuine and close relationships.
10. Has transient interpersonal relationships, is fickle.
11. Attempts to transfer blame to others.
12. Reverts to more immature behavior when under stress (e.g., whines, sucks thumb, has tantrums).

LOW: child shows pseudo-mature behavior under stress.

13. Characteristically pushes and tries to stretch limits; sees what s/he can get away with.
14. Is eager to please.
15. Shows concern for moral issues, e.g., reciprocity, fairness, and the welfare of others. (N.B.: will be placed low for most preschoolers.)
16. Tends to be pleased with and proud of his/her products and accomplishments.
17. Girls: behaves in a feminine style and manner.

Boys: behaves in a masculine style and manner.  
(NB The cultural and subcultural standard should be applied.)

18. Expresses negative feelings toward peers directly and openly.  
(NB: Frequency or amount of negative feeling is not at issue; this item is concerned with *directness* of expression.)
19. Is open and straightforward.  
LOW: sneaky, uses deceit.
20. Tries to take advantage of others.
21. Tries to be the centre of attention (e.g., by showing off, demonstrating accomplishments, volunteering).
22. Tries to manipulate others by ingratiation (e.g., by coyness, or seductiveness).
23. Is fearful and anxious.
24. Tends to brood and ruminate or worry.
25. Uses and responds to reason.
26. Is physically active.
27. Is visibly deviant from peers in appearance, size or physical condition (e.g., markedly tall or short, under- or over-weight, physically handicapped).
28. Is vital, energetic, lively.
29. Is protective of others.
30. Tends to arouse liking and acceptance in adults.
31. Shows a recognition of the feelings of others, is empathetic. (N.B. Will be placed low for most preschoolers.)
32. Tends to give, lend, and share.  
LOW: does not share.
33. Cries easily.
34. Is restless and fidgety.
35. Is inhibited and constricted.
36. Is resourceful in initiating activities.
37. Likes to compete, tests and compares self against others.

38. Has unusual thought processes; thinks and perceives in uncommon ways. (NB Do not assess quality, only originality.)
39. Tends to become rigidly repetitive or immobilized when under stress.
40. Is curious and exploring, eager to learn, open to new experiences.
41. Is persistent in activities, does not give up easily.  
(VERY HIGH: implies perseveration.)
42. Is an interesting, arresting child.
43. Can recoup or recover after stressful experiences.
44. When in conflict or disagreement with others, tends to yield and give in.
45. Tends to withdraw and disengage when under stress.
46. Tends to go to pieces under stress, becomes rattled and disorganized.
47. Has high standards of performance for self.
48. Seeks reassurance from others about his/her worth or adequacy.
49. Shows specific mannerisms or behavioural rituals (e.g., taps fingers, has tics, bites nails, bites lips, thumb-sucking, stuttering).
50. Has bodily symptoms as a function of tension and conflict (e.g., headaches, stomach aches, nausea).
51. Is agile and well coordinated.
52. Is physically cautious.
53. Tends to be indecisive and vacillating.
54. Has rapid shifts in mood, is emotionally labile.
55. Is afraid of being deprived, is concerned about getting enough (affection, food, toys, etc.).
56. Is jealous and envious of others.
57. Tends to dramatize or exaggerate mishaps.
58. Is emotional expressive (facially, gesturally, or verbally).
59. Is neat and orderly in dress and behavior.

VERY HIGH: fussy or over-concerned.

60. Becomes anxious when the environment is unpredictable or poorly structured.
61. Tends to be judgmental of the behavior of others.
62. Is obedient and compliant.
63. Has a rapid personal tempo, reacts and moves quickly. (NB, brightness is not necessarily implied; only speed of response is at issue.)
64. Is calm and relaxed, easy-going.
65. Is unable to delay gratification; cannot wait for satisfactions.

LOW: needless or excessive delay.

66. Is attentive and able to concentrate.
67. Is planful, thinks ahead.
68. appears to have high intellectual capacity (whether or not expressed in achievement).
69. Is verbally fluent, can express ideas well in language.
70. Daydreams, tends to get lost in reverie.
71. Looks to adults for help and direction.
72. Has a readiness to feel guilty, puts blame on self (whether verbalized or not). (NB will be placed low for most preschoolers.)
73. Responds to humour.
74. Becomes strongly involved in what s/he does.
75. Is cheerful.

LOW: unhappy, despondent.

76. Can be trusted, is dependable.
77. Appears to feel unworthy, thinks of self as "bad".
78. Is easily offended, sensitive to ridicule or criticism.
79. Tends to be suspicious and distrustful of others.
80. Teases other children (including siblings).

81. Can acknowledge unpleasant experience and admit to own negative feelings. (N.B. will be placed low for most preschoolers.)
82. Is self-assertive.
83. Seeks to be independent and autonomous.
84. Is a talkative child. (NB Only amount of talk is at issue, not quality or fluency.)
85. Is aggressive (physically or verbally).
86. Likes to be by him/herself, enjoys solitary activities.
87. Tends to imitate and take over the characteristic mannerisms and behaviors of those admired.
88. Is self-reliant, confident, trusts own judgment.
89. Is competent, skillful.
90. Is stubborn.
91. Is inappropriate in emotive behavior (reactions are excessive, insufficient, or out of context).
92. Is physically attractive, good-looking.
93. Behaves in a dominating manner with others.
94. Tends to be sulky or whiny.
95. Over-reacts to minor frustrations; is easily irritated and/ or angered.
96. Is creative in perception, thought, work, or play. (NB, this item assesses *creative* quality, not intelligence.)
97. Has an active fantasy life.
98. Is shy and reserved, makes social contacts slowly.
99. Is reflective; thinks and deliberates before speaking or acting.
100. Is easily victimized by other children; tends to be treated as a scapegoat.