

## **Dimensions of Temperament Survey (DOTS)**

This is a short questionnaire filled out by the parent about their child or self-on-self if the respondent is old enough. This survey is designed to identify age-continuous features of temperament across the span from early childhood to late adolescence/early adulthood.

The specific factors being assessed are as follows: activity level, attention span/distractibility, adaptability/approach-withdrawal, rhythmicity, and reactivity. Each item has a 4-point response grid ranging from *usually false* to *usually true*. Higher subscale scores indicate higher levels of that temperamental characteristic. A difficult temperament index is created by summing all subscale scores. A difficult temperament may be predictive of later behavioral and socioemotional problems.

Lerner, R.M., Palermo, M., Spiro, A., & Nesslerode, J. (1982). Assessing the dimensions of temperamental individuality across the life-span: The dimensions of temperament survey (DOTS). *Child Dev.*, 53, 149-159.