



StudentKeys: Lessons on Personality for Parents and Kids

By Jessica Abraham

My daughter is seven.

She is short, sassy, and popular – yet is frequently bullied. One minute, she will use your own arguments against you, and logically use semantics to trip you up along the way. The next minute, she is making you a gift, drawing you a picture or professing her love in the sweetest of ways.

**For more information,
visit www.discinsights.com**

It is not very often we get to share our personal lives or experiences with the public. However, because we have been discussing StudentKeys quite a bit, I thought it would be interesting to share a story about my personal experience using the StudentKeys and Children's DISC products on my exceptional-yet-challenging little girl.

Ever since she was a baby, my daughter has been beyond inquisitive. She wants to know why something is how it is, and notices even the smallest things when they are out of order. When she is in public, she is shy, polite and somewhat of a pushover. When she is at home, she is dominant, demanding and somewhat of a boss. She is often called "wise beyond her years," as older people gravitate towards her claiming they "have known her before."

I have watched her change tremendously in the last year and a half.

We moved from Orlando to a small city in Ohio. Her schools, in comparison, are completely different. This change in environment has shown me another side of my little girl. You see, my daughter is gifted and falls within the MENSA spectrum. There can be times where she is extremely difficult to deal with and other times where she flat-out amazes me. In the last year and a half, we both dealt with our share of chaos and experienced dramatic changes to the world as we knew it.

She is often just her own opposite. She is messy, yet organized. She creates lists, but forgets to bring home papers from her teacher. She is easily distracted, draws and writes stories. She has straight As and loves math. However, I have to fight with her to clean up or even do her homework.

MY DAUGHTER THINKS LITERALLY.

My little girl was reading by the age of three, but when she started Kindergarten she was failing in Reading Class. They called me in and scolded me on how I needed to spend time teaching her the sight words. I assured them she already knew them, but they pointed out words she would not say.

Frustrated and upset, I felt the teachers were calling me a liar. So, I made her say the words right then and there – and she did. When asked why she did not read them to the teachers before, she said it was because she did not like the words or how the letters went together.

On another occasion, her teachers told me she was not good in reading comprehension. They read the class a short story and told the students they had to repeat to them exactly what happened. She told them she did not know. She told me she did not know. For weeks...she did not know!

One day, I got really mad. I told her I would not send her to school anymore if she is not going to learn anything when she is there. Once upon a time, she loved school. So, for her, this hit home.

The next day, she happily-yet-nervously announced that she thought she remembered the story. She memorized the entire story – word for word. She took her teachers literally and wanted to tell them the story exactly how she had heard it. Thus, came

the realization there was more than meets the eye! She is now in second grade and her comprehension level is beyond eighth grade. All it took was a little bit of understanding. This is something that has always stood out in my mind.

When meeting the editor at PeopleKeys, I shared quite a bit about my daughter. She then asked if I would be interested in assessing my daughter with the StudentKeys system. Knowing how amazing DISC assessments can be and how much change they can bring to the corporate world, I quickly accepted. My daughter was excited too! When the editor learned her age and that she could read beyond her grade level, she asked to have my daughter take both versions of StudentKeys and share with her the results.

POST-TEST RESULTS AND ASSESSMENT

My daughter took the test. Actually, I thought she took one test. However, while urging her to finish the test she was working on, I realized she had gone ahead and took them both. Boy, did I feel awful. In fact, after reading her results, I started to realize that much of our problems are not problems at all. It is just who she is, and I needed to learn how to better communicate with her.

In the public eye, she is an influencer and stable. She is a real people-pleaser, creative and does things with a little bit of risk. She behaves as she is expected, and she appears to want to stay out of trouble. As an “I” and “S” style in public, she is somewhat of a leader. At home it’s a different story...

When dealing with stress or when her guard is down, she tends to take less risk, does what she wants within limitations and continually analyzes the situation. She is a theoretic thinker. She learns visually and likes to think about what she encounters in great detail. She prefers fact over fiction, has a great imagination but likes to put it to use rather than let it simmer in fantasy.

At home, she is a peacemaker (SC Style Blend).

Per the report, she “is kind in nature and is very detail-oriented.” She is “caring about the people around her and possesses the qualities that make her very meticulous at task completion.” This part

I already knew. I also learned a bit more as the report went on.

"Priyanka likes to look around carefully before making any decisions and weighs out how it will affect other people, at times being overly cautious. If Peacemakers feel someone is taking advantage of a situation, they will slow down processes so that they can watch what is going on."

As an "I" who also tends to have a high "D" at times, I can become frustrated and push her to get her task-at-hand done and move on to the next phase in her day. Because of her high "S," she will shut down and this will hit her pretty hard, as she is also prone to the fear of being criticized with her "C." When she comes off as "talking back," she is really stating the injustices she sees, the corrections that need to be made, and the problems that arise. It is up to me to help her harness this and develop tact, knowing when and where she is free to speak her mind.

In the last year and a half, she has lost her sense of stability and has faced many changes that have led her to move, leave behind friends, and start everything fresh. In the eyes of a seven-year-old (then six), her whole world was turned upside down.

AS A PARENT, I NEED TO ADJUST.

From this assessment, as a parent I learned something I always knew to some degree. My daughter responds better with all the details. I should have discussed the situation more, as it was unfolding, and definitely need to discuss things in more detail in the future. She is very comprehensive and understands things much better than I often realize.

Being pushy, aggressive and/or overly demanding just does not work, and will only cause resentment, as she shuts down or reciprocates the same. As an "S," she may be stubborn and may hold grudges when she is frustrated. There are daily fights in my household because of this. That is when the peace-maker retreats and some limitations of the "S" style shine through.

Clearly defining goals and asking for her feedback will allow her to feel more in control and therefore, more secure. I will not have to worry about her

trying to take control and she will continue to be just as respectful as she is in public. She longs to be a part of a team, whereas other kids might be the opposite. Assuming otherwise is detrimental to understanding her and who she is as a person. She is naturally an "S-C." I do not need to treat her as a "D." By giving her support, I am going to have to accept she is going to do the same.

CONCLUSION

Both tests differed just a bit, and it seemed the Children's DISC results reflected more of her public self than who she is all-in-all. Both were very valuable and provided a lot of great insight. The Children's Report results told me how I can deal with her more, as a parent, and how I can cultivate her personality for the better. The StudentKeys DISC results showed her how she can cultivate her own style and develop those traits in which she is currently lacking to be the best Peacemaker (SC style blend) she can be.

I have learned a lot from the results, and she has too. For me, I learned how I can be a better parent, while harnessing my daughter's strengths and helping her overcome some limitations. For her, she was able to see that Mommy isn't just "nagging and complaining" and there are some serious things she needs to realize.

We were able to learn more about her personality traits from a younger point-of-view. We could also see some of the career paths she will excel in. I think it is interesting how she has been steadfast on becoming a doctor since age two. In the last year, this has changed to an IT professional or math teacher... all of which are suggested professions in her future, according to her DISC profile.

If you are a parent, aunt, teacher, principal, anyone who has, is working with or influencing children, I highly suggest checking out the StudentKeys products. These great tools will help you in understanding your amazing student and child, and this understanding will make the greatest difference. Getting to know them on such an intimate level will help you to communicate with them better and will most likely provide further encouragement in their everyday lives.