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*Abstract.* Shyness is a term deeply rooted in everyday language that, when applied to infants and young children, refers to various forms of modest, reserved, wary, inhibited, anxious, or withdrawn behaviors in social situations, and to a temperamental personality trait. After discussing different facets of shyness (wariness to strangers, behavioral inhibition, social anxiety, and modesty) and distinguishing shyness from related constructs such as social withdrawal, social isolation, and unsociability, I provide a simple developmental model for the development of trait shyness from infancy into early and middle childhood. Finally, I review evidence for the long-term outcome of early shyness in adulthood.