

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED

Before you read the characteristics please keep in mind:

- **This is only a partial list.**
- **Don't expect your child to display all or even most of these characteristics.**
- **There are differing levels of giftedness**
- **Very few individuals will be gifted in all areas.**
- **A child identified as gifted will not necessarily "know" all the basic instructional areas without being taught.**
- **The gifted child will often display weak areas just as any other student does. This is to be expected.**

LEARNING CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ May have unusually advanced vocabulary and understanding of terms.
- ✓ Often verbal behavior is characterized by "rich" expression, elaboration, and fluency.
- ✓ Possesses a great deal of information about a variety of topics (beyond the usual interests of children his age).
- ✓ May possess easy mastery and quick recall of factual information.
- ✓ Can easily perceive cause-effect relationships.
- ✓ Grasps and retains knowledge.
- ✓ Is curious about the how and why of things and wants to know what makes things "tick".
- ✓ Questions critically.
- ✓ Asks many provocative questions that cannot be readily answered with an absolute solution.
- ✓ Has a quick grasp of underlying principles.

- ✓ May have superior reasoning powers.
- ✓ Conveys ideas effectively.
- ✓ Has persistent intellectual curiosity.
- ✓ Has a wide range of interests.
- ✓ Sets high standards for his/herself.
- ✓ Prefers complex ideas.
- ✓ Responds quickly and accurately.
- ✓ Has many and varied interests.
- ✓ Can make valid generalizations about events, people, or things.
- ✓ Looks for similarities and differences in situations, people, and things.
- ✓ Is a keen and alert observer.
- ✓ Transfers learning to new situations.
- ✓ Can usually see or understand more from a film or story than others.
- ✓ Likes to read on his/her own and prefers to choose his/her own reading material. Often chooses difficult material well beyond his/her years. May show preference for biography, autobiography, encyclopedias, atlases, etc.
- ✓ Separates complicated material into parts for greater understanding.
- ✓ Reasons things out for him/herself.
- ✓ Understands and applies rules.
- ✓ Sees logical and commonsense answers.

MOTIVATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Becomes deeply involved and absorbed in certain topics or problems.
- ✓ Persistently seeks task completion and it is often difficult to get him/her to move on to another topic.
- ✓ May become easily bored with routine tasks.
- ✓ Sets high standards for his/herself.
- ✓ Expects or demands intellectual challenge.
- ✓ Resists sameness and routine tasks.

- ✓ Needs little outside pressure to follow through in work that is of interest to him/her.
- ✓ Seeks perfection and can be very self-critical. Is not easily satisfied with his/her own performance.
- ✓ Prefers to work independently. Often requires few directions from teachers.
- ✓ Is interested in “adult” problems such as religion, politics, and race. (shows more interest than other students his/her age)
- ✓ May be self-assertive (sometimes aggressive).
- ✓ Can be stubborn in his/her beliefs.
- ✓ Is an organizer of people, things, and situations.
- ✓ Very conscious of right and wrong as well as good and bad.
- ✓ Often passes judgment on events, people, and things.

CREATIVITY CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Displays curiosity about things.
- ✓ Constantly asking questions about any and everything.
- ✓ Comes up with a large number of ideas or solutions to problems and questions.
- ✓ Often offers unusual, unique, or clever responses.
- ✓ Readily expresses opinions.
- ✓ Is sometimes radical and spirited in disagreement.
- ✓ Can be very persistent.
- ✓ Uses a wide variety of resources.
- ✓ Is willing to take risks.
- ✓ Uses trial and error methods.
- ✓ Is ingenious in knowing when, where, and how to seek help.
- ✓ Can be adventurous and speculative.
- ✓ Fantasizes and has an active imagination.
- ✓ Manipulates ideas to look at things from a different perspective.
- ✓ Is often concerned with changing and improving institutions, objects, and systems.
- ✓ Is often nonconforming.

- ✓ Undisturbed by disorder.
- ✓ Is not interested in details.

AFFECTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Maintains optimistic attitude toward new adventures.
- ✓ Is self-reliant when meeting problems.
- ✓ Is self-critical.
- ✓ Shows perseverance.
- ✓ Heightened or unusual sensitivity to self-awareness.
- ✓ Highly perceptive to stimuli (sounds, sights, smells, touches, tastes, movements, words, patterns, numbers, physical phenomena, people, etc.).
- ✓ Profoundly sensitive to small differences—and those differences make all the difference.
- ✓ Has a keen sense of humor.
- ✓ May see humor in situations that may not be funny to others.
- ✓ Is an individualist.
- ✓ Does not fear being different.
- ✓ Is capable of constructive criticism.
- ✓ Can be unwilling to accept criticism from authority figures without critical examination.
- ✓ Is unusually aware of his/her impulses.
- ✓ Shows emotional sensitivity.
- ✓ Is sensitive to beauty and interested in the aesthetic characteristics of things.
- ✓ Gets excitement and pleasure from intellectual challenges.
- ✓ Understands and accepts reasons for change.
- ✓ Is a perfectionist.
- ✓ Takes things personally.
- ✓ Is easily hurt or upset,
- ✓ Feels powerless to solve the world's problems.
- ✓ May seem immature.
- ✓ Sets unrealistically high goals.
- ✓ Lacks tolerance for others' mistakes.

- ✓ Fears failure.
- ✓ Avoids taking risks or trying new things.
- ✓ Becomes depressed.
- ✓ A sense of justice, moral judgment or altruism.
- ✓ May underachieve rather than risk failure.