

HOW TO SPOT A GIFTED STUDENT

The Gifted Student	But...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks many questions and is very curious • Possesses a large amount of information • Has a good memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily gets “off task” and “off topic” • Is impatient when not called on in class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learns new information quickly • Retains information easily • Masters reading skills earlier • Demonstrates strong abilities in math • Displays unusual academic achievement • Finishes classwork quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is easily bored • Can become disruptive in class • Shows strong resistance to repetitive activities and memorization • Completes work quickly and sloppily
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is interested in many things • Becomes involved in a variety of activities • Is motivated to try new things • Enjoys a challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May resist working on activities apart from areas of interest • Leaves projects unfinished • Takes on too much and becomes overwhelmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinks independently • Expresses unique and original opinions • Is self-motivated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges authority • Does not handle criticism well • Does not work well in groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses higher level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) • Makes connections other students don't see • Considers unusual approaches to problem-solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tends to be absent-minded regarding practical details • Forgets homework assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a strong sense of justice • Likes to debate current issues and real life problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be very critical of self and others • Likes to argue a point • Is a perfectionist and expects others to be perfect as well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a sophisticated sense of humor • Understands subtle humor • Enjoys plays on words and satire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily gets carried away with a joke • Has a tendency to become the “class clown”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong expressive skills • Is sensitive to feelings of others • Elaborates on ideas • Shows skill in drama/art/music/language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes perceived as a “know-it-all” by peers • Is sometimes “bossy” to peers in group situations

Adapted from TeachersFirst.com

THE CHALLENGES OF GIFTEDNESS

Strengths	Possible Challenges
1. Acquires/retains information quickly	1. Impatient with others; dislikes routine
2. Inquisitive; searches for significance	2. Asks embarrassing questions
3. Intrinsic motivation	3. Strong-willed; resists direction
4. Enjoys problem solving; able to use abstract reasoning	4. Resists routine practice; questions use abstract reasoning procedures
5. Seeks cause-effect relations	5. Dislikes unclear/illogical areas (such as traditions or feelings)
6. Emphasizes truth, equity, and fair play	6. Worries about humanitarian concerns
7. Seeks to organize things and people	7. Constructs complicated rules; often seen as bossy
8. Large vocabulary; advanced, broad information	8. May use words to manipulate; bored with school and age-peers
9. High expectations of self and others	9. Intolerant, perfectionist; may become depressed
10. Creative/inventive; likes new ways of doing things	10. May be seen as disruptive and out of step
11. Intense concentration; long attention span; persistence in areas of interest	11. Neglects duties/people during periods of focus; seen as stubborn
12. Sensitivity, empathy, desire to be accepted	12. Sensitivity to criticism or peer rejection
13. High energy, alertness, eagerness	13. Frustration with inactivity, may be seen as hyperactive
14. Independent; prefers working solo; self-reliant	14. May reject parent or peer input; nonconformity
15. Diverse interests and abilities; versatility	15. May appear disorganized or scattered; frustrated over lack of time
16. Strong sense of humor	16. Peers may misunderstand humor; may become "class clown" for attention

Adapted from Clark (1992) and Seagoe (1972)

BRIGHT VS. GIFTED: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

A Bright Child:	A Gifted Child:
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is very curious
Pays attention	Gets involved mentally and physically
Works hard	Can be inattentive and still get good grades and test scores
Answers the questions	Questions the answers
Enjoys same-age peers	Prefers adults or older children
Learns easily	Often already knows the answers
Is self-satisfied (when gets right answer)	Is highly self-critical (perfectionists)
Is good at memorizing	Is good at guessing

Adapted from Sue Douglass Fliess

CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

1. Verbal Proficiency
 - Large vocabulary
 - Facility of expression
 - Breadth of information
2. Power of Abstraction
 - Interest in inductive learning and problem solving
 - High level of conceptualization
 - Pleasure in intellectual activity
3. Intellectual Curiosity
 - Interest in a wide range of things
 - Willingness for complexity
 - Persistent pursuit of goals
4. Retentiveness/Power of Concentration
 - Intense attention
 - Retains and uses information
 - Long attention span
5. Independence/Goal Directed
 - Pursues individual interests
 - Seeks direction
 - Self-initiated student
6. Power of Critical Thinking
 - Self-criticism
 - Skepticism
 - Adept in analyzing strengths and weaknesses
7. Sensitivity/Intuitiveness
 - High level of awareness
 - Keenly observant
 - Emotional depth
8. Potential for Creativity
 - Inventiveness
 - Liking for new ways of doing things
 - Interest in brainstorming, freewheeling
9. Versatility/Virtuosity
 - Diversity of interests and abilities
 - Many hobbies