

CHARACTERISTICS of GIFTED CHILDREN

To the trained eye, it can be fairly easy to spot a gifted child. Even to the not-so-trained eye of a parent, it's easy to notice that a child is not quite like other children. However, parents often question what those differences mean. They know their child is smart, but gifted? Looking at a list of gifted traits or characteristics is a quick first step in determining whether a child is gifted.

Cognitive Traits

- Very Observant
- Extremely Curious
- Intense interests
- Excellent memory
- Long attention span
- Excellent reasoning skills
- Well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis
- Quickly and easily sees relationships in ideas, objects, or facts
- Fluent and flexible thinking
- Elaborate and original thinking
- Excellent problem solving skills
- Learns quickly and with less practice and repetition
- Unusual and/or vivid imagination

Social and Emotional Traits

- Interested in philosophical and social issues
- Very sensitive, emotionally and even physically
- Concerned about fairness and injustice
- Perfectionistic
- Energetic
- Well-Developed Sense of Humor
- Usually intrinsically motivated
- Relates well to parents, teachers and other adults

Language Traits

- Extensive Vocabulary
- May Read Early
- Reads Rapidly and Widely
- Asks "what if" questions

Additional Traits

- Enjoys learning new things
- Enjoys intellectual activity
- Displays intellectual playfulness
- Prefers books and magazines meant for older children
- Skeptical, critical, and evaluative