

What Does Giftedness Look Like?



The young gifted child may appear to be many ages at once. He may be eight (his chronological age) when riding a bicycle, twelve when playing chess, fifteen when studying algebra, ten when collecting fossils and two when asked to share his chocolate chip cookie with his sister. This variability in behavior and perception is difficult for parents and schools to handle and difficult for the child as well. It is hard to “fit in” consistently when so much of the child’s environment is structured by chronological age, an age which may be for the gifted child the least relevant aspect of his development.

– Stephanie S. Tolan, “Giftedness As Asynchronous Development”, Tip Network News

Gifted or High Achieving?

A Gifted Learner* ...

A High Achiever...

Poses unforeseen questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remembers the answers.
Is curious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is interested.
Is selectively mentally engaged.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is attentive.
Generates complex, abstract ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Generates advanced ideas.
Knows without working hard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Works hard to achieve.
Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answers the questions in detail.
Is beyond the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Performs at the top of the group.
Exhibits feelings & opinions from multiple perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Responds with interest and opinions.
Already knows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Learns with ease.
Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master.
Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehends at a high level.
Prefers the company of intellectual peers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enjoys the company of age peers.
Creates complex, abstract humor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Understands complex, abstract humor.
Infers and connects concepts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grasps the meaning.
Initiates projects and extensions of assignments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completes assignments on time.
Is intense.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is receptive.
Is original and continually developing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is accurate and complete.
Enjoys self-directed learning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enjoys school often.
Manipulates information.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absorbs information.
Is an expert who abstracts beyond the field.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a technician with expertise in a field.
Guesses and infers well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Memorizes well.
Anticipates and relates observations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is highly alert and observant.
Is self-critical.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is pleased with own learning.
May not be motivated by grades.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gets A's.
Is intellectual.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is able.