

General Characteristics of Gifted Learners

"Typical" Characteristics of Gifted Learners

- strong desire to learn
- interest in experimenting and doing things differently
- wide range of interests
- sense of wonder
- willingness to take intellectual risks
- thrive in problem situations; select more difficult tasks
- ability to retain a great deal of information
- ability to learn/acquire skills more quickly and with less practice
- self-initiative; pursue individual interests
- asking extensive or unusual questions
- unusually large vocabulary for age
- ability to read earlier than age-mates
- greater comprehension of the subtleties of language
- keen powers of observation
- highly developed curiosity and limitless supply of questions
- longer attention span, persistence, and intense concentration
- tendency to put ideas or things together in ways that are unusual and not obvious
- generating alternatives or suggesting several directions; exhibiting flexible thinking
- visualizing relationships between disparate data or concepts
- perceptual openness to environment; employing all senses in new/unfamiliar settings
- showing little patience for routine procedures and drills
- using imagination
- originality in oral and other forms of expression (such as music, dance, drama, drawing, playing)
- elaborating well
- high degree of common sense
- maturing at different rates than age peers (asynchrony)
- leadership abilities
- sensitivity toward self and others
- unusual sense of humor

Negative Behaviors of Gifted Learners

- obstinacy
- disruptiveness
- inferior/careless work
- failure to follow directions
- underachievement/nonproductivity
- disinterest in skills development
- lack of effort
- antisocial demeanor
- impertinence
- emotional immaturity
- hiding ability in order to fit in
- overinvolvement
- lack of judgment
- lack of strategies to deal with failure
- poor study habits
- disorganized
- lack of problem-solving skills
- egotism
- arrogance
- impatience with others

What Happens When Needs Are Not Met

- lower total test scores
- inferior student performance
- impertinence
- disruptiveness
- underachievement/nonproductivity
- parent pressures
- depression
- insecurity/low self-esteem
- loss of social capital
- loss of academic confidence
- loss of passion/interest in learning
- social and intellectual isolation
- fixed mindset about abilities