

Bright

vs.

Gifted

Comparison of Characteristics

The Bright Child

- Knows the answers
- Is interested
- Is attentive
- Has good ideas
- Answers the questions
- Top group
- Listens with interest
- Learns with ease
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Understands ideas
- Enjoys peers
- Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments
- Is receptive
- Copies accurately
- Enjoys school
- Absorbs information
- Technician
- Good memorizer
- Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation
- Is alert
- Is pleased with own learning

The Gifted Child

- Asks the questions
- Is highly curious
- Is mentally and physically involved
- Has wild, silly ideas
- Discusses in detail; elaborates
- Beyond the top group
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Already knows
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery
- Constructs abstractions
- Prefers adults
- Draws inferences
- Initiates (not necessarily completes) projects
- Is intense
- Creates a new design
- Enjoys learning
- Manipulates information
- Inventor
- Good guesser
- Thrives on complexity
- Is keenly observant
- Is highly self-critical

Note: Not all descriptors will be true for any one student

Some of the Earliest Signs of Giftedness Include:

- ▶ Unusual alertness in infancy
- ▶ Less need for sleep in infancy
- ▶ Long attention span
- ▶ High activity level
- ▶ Smiling or recognizing caretakers early
- ▶ Intense reactions to noise, pain, frustration
- ▶ Advanced progression through the developmental milestones
- ▶ Extraordinary memory
- ▶ Enjoyment and speed of learning
- ▶ Early and extensive language development
- ▶ Fascination with books
- ▶ Curiosity
- ▶ Excellent sense of humor
- ▶ Abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills
- ▶ Vivid imagination (e.g., imaginary companions)
- ▶ Sensitivity and compassion