

GIFTED 101

Definition

"Children who are gifted are defined as those who demonstrate an advanced ability or potential in one or more specific areas when compared to others of the same age, experience or environment. These gifted individuals excel in their ability to think, reason and judge, making it necessary for them to receive differentiated instruction to be able to fully develop their potential and talents." - Davidson Institute

The Gifted Student

- Asks many questions and is very curious
- Possesses a large amount of information
- Has a good memory

The Gifted Student

- Learns new information quickly
- Retains information easily
- Masters reading skills earlier
- Demonstrates strong abilities in math
- Displays unusual academic achievement
- Finishes classwork quickly

The Gifted Student

- Interested in many things
- Becomes involved in a variety of activities
- Is motivated to try new things
- Enjoys a challenge

The Gifted Student

- Thinks independently
- Expresses unique and original opinions
- Is self-motivated

The Gifted Student

- Uses higher level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
- Makes connections other students don't see
- Considers unusual approaches to problem-solving

The Gifted Student

- Has a strong sense of justice
- Likes to debate current issues and real life problems

The Gifted Student

- Has a sophisticated sense of humor
- Understands subtle humor
- Enjoys plays on words and satire

The Gifted Student

- Demonstrates strong expressive skills
- Is sensitive to feelings to others
- Elaborates on ideas
- Shows skill in drama/art/music/language

Traits

But...

- Easily gets "off task" and "off topic"
- Is impatient when not called on in class

But...

- Is easily bored
- Can become disruptive in class
- Shows strong resistance to repetitive activities and memorization
- Completes work quickly but sloppily

But...

- May resist working on activities apart from areas of interest
- Leaves projects unfinished
- Takes on too much and becomes overwhelmed

But...

- Challenges authority
- Does not handle criticism well
- Does not work well in groups

But...

- Tends to be absent-minded regarding practical details
- Forgets homework assignments

But...

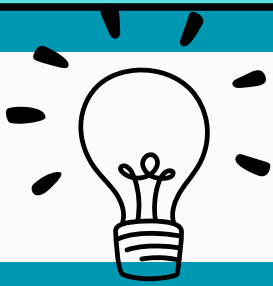
- Can be very critical of self and others
- Likes to argue a point
- Is a perfectionist and expects others to be perfect as well

But...

- Easily gets carried away with a joke
- Has a tendency to become the "class clown"

But...

- Sometimes perceived as a "know-it-all" by peers
- Is sometimes "bossy" to peers in group situations



GIFTED 101

High Achiever vs Gifted Learner

vs

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Knows the answers | Asks the questions |
| Is interested | Is highly curious |
| Is attentive | Is intellectually engaged |
| Has good ideas | Has original ideas |
| Works hard | Performs with ease |
| Commits time and effort to learning | May need less time to excel |
| Answers questions | Responds with detail and unique perspectives |
| Absorbs information | Manipulates information |
| Copies and responds accurately | Creates new and original products |
| Is a top student | Is beyond his or her age peers |

Effective Strategies for Gifted Students:

- Increased complexity and challenge
- Tiered activities and assignments
- Varied questioning
- Varied texts and materials
- On-going formative assessments
- Projects and investigations
- Technology applications
- Curriculum management
- Differentiated instructional units/centers

