

Bright Child	Gifted Learner
Knows the answers.	Asks the questions.
Is interested.	Is highly curious.
Is attentive.	Is mentally and physically involved.
Has good ideas.	Has wild, silly ideas.
Works hard.	Plays around, yet tests well.
Answers the questions.	Discusses in detail, elaborates.
Top group.	Beyond the group.
Listens with interest.	Shows strong feelings and opinions.
Learns with ease.	Already knows.
6-8 repetitions for mastery.	1-2 repetitions for mastery.
Understands ideas.	Constructs abstractions.
Enjoys peers.	Prefers adults.
Grasps the meaning.	Draws inferences.
Completes assignments.	Initiates projects.
Is receptive.	Is intense.
Copies accurately.	Creates a new design.
Enjoys school.	Enjoys learning.
Absorbs information.	Manipulates information.
Technician.	Inventor.
Good memorizer.	Good guesser.
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation.	Thrives on complexity.
Is alert.	Is keenly observant.
Is pleased with own learning.	Is highly self-critical.

Source: Margie Kitano

How to spot a Gifted Student

Gifted students possess some common characteristics. Recognizing these general traits and understanding how they may reveal themselves in the classroom is an important step toward working effectively with this unique group of children.

Some of these behaviors are listed and described below. Positive traits are included along with those behaviors that may frustrate you as a teacher. If a student in your classroom exhibits these characteristics on a consistent basis, there is a good chance he or she is gifted.

The Gifted Student Frequently...	But...
Asks many questions and is very curious Possesses a large amount of information Has a good memory	Easily gets "off task" and "off topic" Is impatient when not called on in class
Learns new information quickly Retains information easily Masters reading skills earlier Demonstrates strong abilities in math Displays unusual academic achievement Finishes class work quickly	Is easily bored Can become disruptive in class Shows strong resistance to repetitive activities and memorization Completes work quickly but sloppily
Is interested in many things Becomes involved in a variety of activities Is motivated to try new things Enjoys a challenge	May resist working on activities apart from areas of interest Leaves projects unfinished Takes on too much and becomes overwhelmed
Thinks independently Expresses unique and original opinions Is self-motivated	Challenges authority Does not handle criticism well Does not work well in groups
Uses higher level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) Makes connections other students don't see Considers unusual approaches to problem-solving	Tends to be absent-minded regarding practical details Forgets homework assignments
Has a strong sense of justice Likes to debate current issues and real life problems	Can be very critical of self and others Likes to argue a point Is a perfectionist and expects other to be perfect as well
Has a sophisticated sense of humor Understands subtle humor Enjoys plays on words and satire	Easily gets carried away with a joke Has a tendency to become the "class-clown"
Demonstrates strong expressive skills Is sensitive to feelings of others Elaborates on ideas Shows skill in drama/arts/music/language	Sometimes perceived as "know-it-all" by peers Is sometimes "bossy" to peers in group situations