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Traits of Giftedness

No gifted individual is exactly the same, each with his own unique patterns and traits. There are many traits that gifted individuals have in common, but no gifted learner exhibits traits in every area. This list of traits may help you better understand whether or not your child is gifted.

Cognitive	Creative	Affective	Behavioral
<p>Keen power of abstraction</p> <p>Interest in problem-solving and applying concepts</p> <p>Voracious and early reader</p> <p>Large vocabulary</p> <p>Intellectual curiosity</p> <p>Power of critical thinking, skepticism, self-criticism</p> <p>Persistent, goal-directed behavior</p> <p>Independence in work and study</p> <p>Diversity of interests and abilities</p>	<p>Creativeness and inventiveness</p> <p>Keen sense of humor</p> <p>Ability for fantasy</p> <p>Openness to stimuli, wide interests</p> <p>Intuitiveness</p> <p>Flexibility</p> <p>Independence in attitude and social behavior</p> <p>Self-acceptance and unconcern for social norms</p> <p>Radicalism</p> <p>Aesthetic and moral commitment to self-selected work</p>	<p>Unusual emotional depth and intensity</p> <p>Sensitivity or empathy to the feelings of others</p> <p>High expectations of self and others, often leading to feelings of frustration</p> <p>Heightened self-awareness, accompanied by feelings of being different</p> <p>Easily wounded, need for emotional support</p> <p>Need for consistency between abstract values and personal actions</p> <p>Advanced levels of moral judgment</p> <p>Idealism and sense of justice</p>	<p>Spontaneity</p> <p>Boundless enthusiasm</p> <p>Intensely focused on passions—resists changing activities when engrossed in own interests</p> <p>Highly energetic—needs little sleep or down time</p> <p>Constantly questions</p> <p>Insatiable curiosity</p> <p>Impulsive, eager and spirited</p> <p>Perseverance—strong determination in areas of importance</p> <p>High levels of frustration—particularly when having difficulty meeting standards of performance (either imposed by self or others)</p> <p>Volatile temper, especially related to perceptions of failure</p> <p>Non-stop talking/chattering</p>

Source: Clark, B. (2008). *Growing up gifted (7th ed.)* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

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