

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILD

The gifted child is one whose high potential and psychological differences result in the need for a range and type of study different from what most pupils require. These are not the elite students of the school, but a unique group whose needs are not entirely met by the regular classroom program. Differences often exhibited by gifted children include these factors.

1. Extreme Curiosity: These children have the need to know about a lot of things.
2. Outstanding Creative/Cognitive Ability: Gifted children often are able to think of things in ways that are quite different from most children.
3. Leadership Ability: Many gifted children are able to organize groups and work with them efficiently while causing little or no friction.
4. Independent: Gifted children may have the ability to direct their own investigations into areas of interest and be able to work without adult supervision.
5. Perceptive/Sensitive: Gifted children often are very much in tune with the feelings of other persons in their environment and can identify others' needs or wants. Their own personal feelings may be deep and they may exhibit greater extremes of emotion.
6. Self-Expressive: Gifted children tend to express themselves well from very early ages. However, with all their interests and abilities, they need many different ways to present their thoughts, feelings, and inspirations. They need many avenues to the outside world.
7. Rapid Learning Pace: Some gifted children can move through various school subjects or interest areas at a very rapid pace.