

# General Characteristics of Gifted Learners

## “Typical” Characteristics of Gifted Learners

- strong desire to learn
- interested in experimenting and doing things differently
- wide range of interests
- sense of wonder
- willingness to take intellectual risks
- thrive in problem situations; select more difficult tasks
- ability to retain a great deal of information
- self-initiating: pursue individual interests
- asks extensive or unusual questions
- unusually large vocabulary for age
- ability to read earlier than age mates
- greater comprehension of the subtleties of language
- keen powers of observation
- highly developed curiosity and limitless supply of questions
- longer attention span, persistence, and intense concentration
- tendency to put ideas or things together in ways that are unusual and not obvious
- generate alternatives or suggest several directions; exhibits flexible thinking
- visualize relationships between disparate data or concepts
- perceptually open to environment; employ all senses in new / unfamiliar settings
- show little patience for routine procedures and drills
- use imagination
- reveal originality in oral and other forms of expression (such as music, dance, drama, drawing, playing)
- elaborate well
- high degree of common sense
- may mature at different rates than age peers (asynchrony)
- leadership abilities
- sensitivity toward self and others
- unusual sense of humor

## Negative Behaviors of Gifted Learners

- obstinacy
- disruptiveness
- inferior / careless work
- failure to follow directions
- underachievement / nonproductive
- disinterested in skills development
- lack effort skills
- antisocial demeanor
- impertinence
- emotional immaturity
- hide ability in order to “fit in”
- over-involvement
- lack of judgement
- lack of strategies to deal with failure
- poor study habits
- disorganized
- lack problem-solving skills
- egotistical
- arrogant
- impatient with others

## What Happens When Needs Are Not Met

- lower total test scores
- inferior student performance
- impertinence
- disruptiveness
- underachievement / nonproductive
- parent pressures
- depression
- insecurity
- loss of social capital
- loss of academic confidence