

Characteristics of Gifted Children and Talented Children and Possible Associated Problems

Characteristics of Gifted Children and Talented Children Gifted and talented children may:	Possible Associated Problems Gifted and talented children may:
Learn quickly and easily have the ability to abstract and reason critically; see relationships between ideas and events	Become bored and frustrated; dislike repetition and shallow curriculum; hide abilities to gain acceptance; receive negative adult attitudes to smartness
Exhibit verbal proficiency	Dominate discussion; have difficulty with listening skills; exhibit manipulative behaviour
Have a high energy level	Need less sleep; become frustrated with inactivity, lack of challenge or active inquiry
Exhibit heightened curiosity	Take on too many activities
Be extremely persistent; concentrate on tasks of high interest for extended periods	Disrupt class routine; feel stifled by restrictions; resist interruption or schedules; be perceived as stubborn, uncooperative
Exhibit different learning styles - accelerated: desiring mastery, achievement and/or - enriched: desiring depth of knowledge, the need to experience, emotional investment in subject, imagination	Become frustrated with absence of progress; be prone to being 'overdriven' and/or not be motivated by results; be resistant to interruption; be seen as time wasting or preoccupied
Exhibit unusual emotional depth and intensity	Be unusually vulnerable; feel confused if thoughts and feelings not taken seriously
Be highly sensitive; be acutely perceptive	Be perceived as immature; try to mask feelings to conform; be vulnerable to criticism
Be concerned with adult/moral issues; be idealistic	Attempt unrealistic reforms; feel frustrated, angry. Depressed; develop a cynical attitude; receive intolerance from age peers
Aim at perfection	Set unrealistically high goals; feel inadequate; feel frustrated with others; fear failure, inhibiting attempts in new areas
Exhibit independence, nonconformity	Have a tendency to challenge and question indiscreetly; have difficulty with rigid conformity; may be penalised; exhibit rebellious behaviour
Have heightened self-awareness, feelings of being different	Experience social isolation; regard difference as bad, worthless, resulting in low self esteem
Have a keen sense of humour	Use humour inappropriately or to attack others; feel confused when humour not understood; feel rejected by others
Possess unusual imagination	Be seen as weird; feel stifled by lack of creative opportunities
Respond and relate to older children and adults	Experience social isolation; be seen as show off, odd, superior, critical; be rejected by older children

(Adapted from publications by Clark, Colangelo, Dalton and Whitmore, by Marion Mackenzie for QAGTC inc.)