



Learning Characteristics

Needs little repetition for mastery
Has lots of information and a questioning attitude
Uses a rich, extensive vocabulary for age or grade level
Uses descriptive language, similes, metaphors, analogies, puns
Makes up songs, stories, and rhymes
Excellent memory and quick recall
Disagrees with others, including the teacher
Refuses and becomes impatient with repetitious work

Notes

Accelerated Skills

Demonstrates an unexpected mastery
Reads widely and above grade-level materials
Enjoys non-fiction as well as fiction
Reads a great deal on his/her own; usually prefers higher level books
Does not avoid difficult materials; enjoys using reference materials
Spends free time absorbed in books (*may read when supposed to do other things*)
Understands the meaning and use of maps, diagrams, and graphs
Is able to perform advanced mathematical operations
Bored with "easy" work
Challenges the teacher to give harder work

Motivational Characteristics

Self-directed; self-starter
Enjoys tackling new and different problems
Demonstrates interest in topics beyond age level, such as religion, politics, race
Is persistent in areas of interest
High level of curiosity; strong need to understand
Does not always want to do what the teacher asks
Self critical, perfectionistic

Creativity and Curiosity

Intellectually playful
Often offers unusual, unique, or clever responses
Takes intellectual risks
Displays a keen sense of humor
Has an active imagination (likes to pretend)
Is able to come up with lots of ideas
Is appreciative of beauty
Does not follow or wait for directions (makes their own rules)
At times, their ideas are grander than they are able to accomplish



Detecting Advanced Potential

Highly capable students may exhibit many of the following characteristics and/or behaviors.

Leadership Characteristics

Generally directs the activity in which s/he is involved
Is self-confident
Accepts responsibility well
Is a positive and compassionate guide to others
Displays strong sense of fairness (*may over-react emotionally*)
Can be seen as "bossy"
Dominates others

Advanced Problem-Solving

Keenly observant
Sees similarities and differences
Sees relationships or patterns
Thinking is logical and organized
Makes accurate predictions using data
Modifies or adapts strategies to solve problems
Reasons things out for himself/herself
Doesn't do well on tests with limited answer choices
Can be argumentative

Social/Emotional Behaviors

Intense feelings or emotions
Strong sense of fairness and justice
High expectations of self and others
Introspective
Enjoys fantasy – may have imaginary friends
Empathetic – intense concern for others
Independent - prefers to be alone part of the time
Friendships based on interests, not age
Marked competitiveness
Perfectionist
End of a friendship or death of pet can cause deep distress
Adults can mistake emotional intensity as immaturity
Sensitivity and compassion for others can leave them vulnerable
Might camouflage their abilities to gain peer acceptance
May limit intellectual risks for fear of failure