

Characteristics of the Gifted

- Learns rapidly and easily.
- Retains what he learns without much drill.
- Shows much curiosity, as indicated by the kinds, depths, scope and frequency of his questions.
- Has rich vocabulary marked by originality of thought and expression.
- Enjoys reading, usually at a mature level.
- Shows interest in words and ideas, as demonstrated by his frequent use of dictionaries, encyclopedias and other sources.
- Reasons things out, thinks clearly and precisely, and is quick to comprehend.
- Has the ability to generalize to see relationships, and to make logical associations.
- Examines, tabulates, classifies, collects, and keeps records.
- Is interested in the nature of man and his universe at an early age.
- Knows and appreciates many things of which other children are unaware.
- Seeks older companions among children and enjoys adults.
- Possesses a good sense of humor and is cheerful.
- Has a strong desire to excel.

-Hewitt, F.M., and Fitness, S.F. (1974). Education of Exceptional Learners. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Some of the Common Characteristics of Underachievers Gifted

- A child may have lower than expected academic self perceptions
- A child may often struggle with self efficacy skills
- A child may regularly demonstrate low levels of self motivation and exhibit low levels of effort in academic tasks
- A child may have negative attitudes toward school, teachers, and/or learning
- A child may struggle to self regulate or have limited metacognitive skills

-Callahan, C.M. & Hertberg Davis, H.L. (Eds.). (2013). Fundamentals of gifted education: Considering multiple perspectives. NY: Routledge.