

# IS MY CHILD GIFTED?

## CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED LEARNERS



THE GIFTED CHOICE

Both parents and educators know that all children have special talents, but it can be difficult to determine whether a child is a bright, hardworking student who is being challenged effectively within his/her learning environment, or a gifted child who would benefit from a more specialized learning environment like SAA. The following table of characteristics is helpful in distinguishing between bright children and gifted learners. It is important to remember that because gifted children are so diverse, not all of them will exhibit all of these characteristics, nor will they demonstrate them all of the time.

THE BRIGHT CHILD	THE GIFTED LEARNER
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Has good ideas	Has wild, silly ideas
Works hard	Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
6-8 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys straightforward presentation	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

Source: Janice Szabos