

SOME GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

Below are listed some general characteristics of gifted children. No child will exhibit all of these, but if your child shows eight or more of these characteristics, you should consider having your son/daughter or student screened for the TAG program:

- Read earlier and with greater comprehension of nuances in the language.
 - Learns basic skills better. The gifted child usually learns them faster and needs less practice. Over-learning can lead to boredom, cessation of motivation, and the commission of careless errors.
 - Makes abstractions when other children at the same age level are more concrete.
 - Delves into some interests beyond the usual limitations of childhood.
 - Comprehends, with almost no verbal cues, implications which other children need to have “spelled out” for them. The gifted gouge out a greater amount of information and do so faster.
 - Takes direction independently at an earlier stage in life and assumes responsibility more naturally.
 - Maintains much longer concentration periods. Gifted young people become immersed with the facts and content of knowledge.
 - Expresses thoughts readily and communicates with clarity in one or more areas of talent, whether verbal, numerical, aptitudinal, or affective.
 - Reads widely, quickly, and intensely in one subject or in many areas.
 - Expend seemingly limitless energy. Are self-starters when it comes to personal interests. • Manifests creative and original verbal or motor responses.
 - Demonstrates a more complex processing of information than the average child of the same age.
 - Responds and relates well to peers, parents, teachers, and adults who likewise function easily in the higher level thinking processes.
 - Has many projects going, particularly at home, so that the talented child is either busily occupied or looking for something to do.
 - Assumes leadership roles because the innate sense of justice that is often noticeable in gifted children and youth gives them strength to which other young people respond.
 - Exhibits multiple talents.
 - Is mature in inconsistent ways (does algebra, still believes in Santa Claus.).
- Children’s giftedness is not always obvious. Gifted students may like to be “on stage,” be rebellious, disorderly, daydreamers, or teacher pleasers. Do not discount children who demonstrate these behaviors.

Adapted from:
Plowman, Rice, Sato
California State Department of Education