

The Gifted Child vs. the Bright Child (By: Janice Szabos)

A Side-by-Side Comparison

The following table of characteristics is a guideline for helping make the distinction between a child who is bright and a high achieving learner in the classroom from one who is gifted and has a special ability for gathering and processing information about the world around them. The gifted child may demonstrate qualities from the bright child list and also be identified by characteristics of the gifted child list. For example, s/he knows the answers AND asks the questions. Please note that no child will display all of the characteristics listed below nor will they display a characteristic all of the time. This table is used merely as a guide in helping to determine giftedness.

The Bright Child	The Gifted Child
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Has good ideas	Has wild, silly, creative ideas
Works hard	Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Is in the top group	Is beyond the top group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
Needs 6 to 8 repetitions for mastery	Needs 1 to 2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers the company of adults or older children
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates new ideas
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technical	Inventor
Good at memorizing	Makes connections and accurate guesses
Enjoys straight-forward, sequential presentations	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Can be highly self-critical