SCIENCE & ARTS ACADEMY



TRAITS OF GIFTEDNESS

There are many traits of giftedness that have been identified by psychologists, researchers, and experts. While every gifted child is unique, there are many characteristics and traits that gifted learners may have in common. No two gifted learners are alike, nor exhibit all of these traits, all of the time.

COGNITIVE

- Keen power of abstraction
- Interest in problem-solving and applying concepts
- Voracious and early reader
- Large vocabulary
- Intellectual curiosity
- Power of critical thinking, skepticism, self-criticism
- Persistent, goal-directed behavior
- Independence in work and study
- Diversity of interests and abilities

AFFECTIVE

- Unusual emotional depth and intensity
- Sensitivity or empathy to the feelings of others
- High expectations of self and others, often leading to feelings of frustration
- Heightened self-awareness, accompanied by feelings of being different
- Easily wounded, need for emotional support
- Need for consistency between abstract values and personal actions
- Advanced levels of moral judgment
- Idealism and sense of justice

CREATIVE

- Creativeness and inventiveness
- Keen sense of humor
- Ability for fantasy
- Openness to stimuli, wide interests
- Intuitiveness
- Flexibility
- Independence in attitude and social behavior
- Self-acceptance and unconcern for social norms
- Radicalism
- Aesthetic and moral commitment to self-selected work

BEHAVIORAL

- Spontaneity
- Boundless enthusiasm
- Intensely focused on passions–resists changing activities when engrossed in own interests
- Highly energetic–needs little sleep or down time
- Constantly questions
- Insatiable curiosity
- Impulsive, eager and spirited
- Perseverance–strong determination in areas of importance
- High levels of frustration–particularly when having difficulty meeting standards of performance (either imposed by self or others)
- Volatile temper, especially related to perceptions of failure
- Non-stop talking/chattering

Source: Clark, B. (2008). Growing up gifted (7th ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

For additional information and resources, visit the National Association for Gifted Children website at nagc.org.