

Intellectual and Affective Characteristics of Gifted Children

Children who are gifted often, but not always display intellectual and emotional characteristics, which are beyond the usual level of peers.

Some of the intellectual traits may be:

- An unusually large vocabulary for the chronological age of the child
- The ability to read early, often before attending school
- Comprehension of the subtleties of language
- Unusual sense of humor
- Learns basic skills easily, with little or no practice
- Wide range of interest
- Highly developed curiosity, limitless supply of questions
- Interest in experimenting and doing things differently
- Tendency to put ideas or things together in unusual ways
- Ability to retain a great deal of information
- Longer attention span, persistence, intense concentration in areas of interest

Some of the affective traits may be:

- Uneven development of mental, emotional, and chronological age
- Heightened sensitivity to interpersonal relationships
- Tendency to challenge authority figures
- High activity level
- Increased intensity of feeling
- Feeling "different" and "alone"
- Tendency to overestimate abilities
- Deep concerns about morality, justice, and world issues