

Characteristics of Gifted Children

The following is a list of characteristics typical of gifted children with positive and negative behaviors that may be exhibited. This list was developed from a broad base of research reviewed by the Ohio Association for Gifted Children <http://OAGC>. (Used with permission.) A child will probably exhibit both the positive and negative behaviors of a characteristic depending on the environment.

Characteristic	Positive Behavior	Negative Behavior
learns rapidly/easily	memorizes and masters basic facts quickly	gets bored easily, resists drill, disturbs others
reads intensively	reads many books and uses library on own	neglects other responsibilities
advanced vocabulary	communicates ideas well	shows off, invokes peer resentment
retains a quantity of information	ready recall and responses	monopolizes discussions
long attention span	sticks with a task or project	resists class routine, dislikes interruptions
curious, has a variety of interests	asks questions, gets excited about ideas	goes on tangents, no follow-through
works independently	creates and invents beyond assigned tasks	refuses to work with others
alert and observant	recognizes problems	impolitely corrects adults
has a good sense of humor	able to laugh at self	plays cruel jokes or tricks on others
comprehends, recognizes relationships	able to solve social problems alone	interferes in the affairs of others
high academic achievement	does school work well	brags, egotistical, impatient with others
fluent, verbal facility	forceful with words, numbers; leads peers in positive ways	leads others into negative behaviors
individualistic	asserts self and ideas, has sense of own uniqueness	has few friends, stubborn in beliefs
self-motivated, self-sufficient	requires minimum teacher direction or help	is overly aggressive, challenges authority