

Twelve Traits of Giftedness

Trait, Aptitude, or Behavior	General Description	How It May Look
<p>Motivation</p> <p>Evidence of desire to learn.</p>	<p>Internal drive or encouragement that initiates, directs, or sustains individual or group behavior in order to satisfy a need or attain a goal.</p>	<p>Demonstrates persistence in pursuing or completing self-selected tasks (may be culturally influenced); evident in school or non-school activities. Enthusiastic learner; has aspirations to be somebody, to do something.</p>
<p>Interests</p> <p>Intense, sometimes unusual, interests</p>	<p>Activities, avocations, objects, etc. that have special worth or significance and are given special attention.</p>	<p>Unusual or advanced interests, topic, or activity; self-starter; pursues and activity unceasingly beyond the group.</p>
<p>Communication Skills</p> <p>Highly expressive with words, numbers, or symbols</p>	<p>Transmission and reception of signals or meanings through a system of symbols (codes, gestures, language, and numbers).</p>	<p>Unusual ability to communicate (verbally, nonverbally, physically, artistically, symbolically); uses particularly apt examples, illustrations, or elaborations.</p>
<p>Problem-Solving Ability</p> <p>Effective, often inventive, strategies for recognizing and solving problems.</p>	<p>Process of determining a correct sequence of alternatives leading to a desired goal or to successful completion of a performance task.</p>	<p>Unusual ability to devise or adopt a systematic strategy to solve problems and to change the strategy if it is not working; creates new designs; inventor.</p>
<p>Memory</p> <p>Large storehouse of information on school or non-school topics.</p>	<p>Exceptional ability to retain and retrieve information.</p>	<p>Already knows; needs only 1-2 repetitions for mastery; has a wealth of information about school and non-school topics; pays attention to details; manipulates information.</p>
<p>Inquiry/Curiosity</p> <p>Questions, experiments, explores.</p>	<p>Method or process of seeking knowledge, understanding or information.</p>	<p>Asks unusual questions for age; plays around with ideas; extensive exploratory behaviors directed toward eliciting information about materials, devices, or situations.</p>
<p>Insight</p> <p>Quickly grasps new concepts; sees connections; senses deeper meanings</p>	<p>Sudden discovery of correct solution following attempts based primarily on trial and error; putting disparate elements together in unexpected ways.</p>	<p>Exceptional ability to draw inferences; appears to be a good guesser; is keenly observant; heightened capacity for seeing unusual and diverse relationships, integration of ideas and disciplines.</p>

<p>Reasoning</p> <p>Logical approaches to figuring out solutions.</p>	<p>Highly conscious, directed, controlled, active, intentional forward-looking, and goal-oriented thought.</p>	<p>Ability to make generalizations and use metaphors and analogies; can think things through in a logical manner; critical thinker; ability to think things through and come up with a plausible answer.</p>
<p>Imagination/Creativity</p> <p>Produces many ideas; highly original</p>	<p>Process of forming mental images of objects; qualities, situations, or relationships which aren't immediately apparent to the senses; problem solving through nontraditional patterns of thinking.</p>	<p>Shows exceptional ingenuity in using everyday materials; is keenly observant; has wild, seemingly silly ideas; fluent, flexible producer of ideas; highly curious.</p>
<p>Humor</p> <p>Conveys and picks up on humor well.</p>	<p>Ability to synthesize key ideas or problems in complex situations in a humorous way; exceptional sense of timing in words or gestures.</p>	<p>Keen sense of humor that may be gentle or hostile; large accumulation of information about emotions; capacity for seeing unusual; uncommon emotional depth; openness to experiences; sensory awareness.</p>
<p>Intensity (“Overexcitabilities”)</p> <p>Strength of reactions, responses, behaviors. (The term “overexcitabilities” comes from Polish psychologist Dabrowski.)</p>	<p>Very Strong, even extreme, responses to stimuli in five areas: emotional, intellectual, sensory, psychomotor, and imagination.</p>	<p>Intense desire for experiences in the area(s) of overexcitability; powerful emotions; seeks intellectual stimulation; sensory experiences evoke strong responses; constant or repetitive movement or gesturing; intense fantasy life; may need creative outlets for intensity.</p>
<p>Sensitivity</p> <p>Strong reactions to emotional stimuli</p>	<p>Events and situations in the affective and social domains elicit a stronger response than usual.</p>	<p>Strong sense of compassion; keen sense of justice; empathy; moral and ethical sensibilities; sense of being “different” socially; existential worrying; often overly self-critical.</p>