

Gifted Children

- Gifted children are, by definition, "Children who give evidence of high performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership capacity, or specific academic fields, and who require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop such capabilities."
- Children who have above average IQ level

Characteristics

- There are some common characteristics the gifted child may possess. The gifted child may be:
 - Unusual alertness in infancy
- Less need for sleep in infancy
- Long attention span
- High activity level
- Smiling or recognizing caretakers early
- Intense reactions to noise, pain, frustration
- Advanced progression through the developmental milestones
- Extraordinary memory
- Enjoyment and speed of learning
- Early and extensive language development
- Fascination with books
- Curiosity
- Excellent sense of humor
- Abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills
- Vivid imagination (e.g., imaginary companions)
- Sensitivity and compassion

Biological differences with normal children

- Gifted children have increased cell production which increases synaptic activity so their thought processes are increased.
- Neurons in their brain are biochemically more abundant (simply more branched or more in number) so brain patterns that develop are able to process more complex thoughts.
- More prefrontal cortex activity in brain so their thinking is more insightful, intuitive and creative
- They have more and faster Alpha wave activity in brain and can retain it longer than typical child. As a result, their learning is more relaxed and focused with more retention.
- The brain rhythms of the gifted child occur more often, and this allows for more concentration, attention, investigation, and inquiry.

Gender differences

The following are common characteristics of the female gifted child:

- She likes school, especially courses in science, music, and art.

- She likes her teachers.
- She regularly reads news, magazines, another non-required reading.
- She is active in drama and musical productions.
- She does not go out on dates as often.
- She is a daydreamer.

The following are common characteristics of the male gifted child:

- He dislikes school.
- He dislikes teachers and thinks they are uninteresting.
- He does little homework.
- He dislikes physical education and seldom engages in team sports.
- He is regarded as radical or unconventional.
- He often wants to be alone to pursue his own thoughts and interests.

Teaching Methods

- Cross-class groupings
- Project work
- give them end dates
- set realistic goals
- be patient
- use brain breaks - Offer gifted students a hobby that can help calm their busy minds. Teach them how to Zen tangle, breathe, meditate, make friendship bracelets, knit, color—anything that allows for them to focus carefully on details can help them quiet some of the extra noise.
- Explore their passion
- Read a lot
- Allow them to focus
- Solve local problems
- Book clubs
- Gamification – challenge them to design their own math or any subject related game
- Brainstorm