



Project Bright Horizon

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CHARACTERISTICS & BEHAVIORS OF CULTURALLY, LINGUISTICALLY & SOCIOECONOMICALLY DIVERSE GIFTED LEARNERS

Common Characteristics	Positive Classroom Behaviors	Challenging Classroom Behaviors
Learns More Rapidly; Retains Information Easily and Longer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters basic skills early • Early reader • Precocious in math • Unusual academic achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becomes bored • Resists rote or repetitive tasks • Disrupts class when work is finished
More Curious; has a Stronger Need to Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has large stores of information • Prefers complexity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks many questions • Gets off topic frequently
Independent Thinker; has a Questioning Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-confident • Expresses original opinions • Good at independent projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebellious; challenges authority • Resists conformity to social norms
Superior Abstract Thinking Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to consider unusual dress • Good at independent projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resists conventional approaches / answers • Presents arguments almost too well
Senses Discrepancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in current events • Concerned with fairness, justice, "real" problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perfectionist • Critical of own and other's ideas
Intellectually Playful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good risk-taker (in areas of strength) • Appreciates play on words • Has a sophisticated sense of humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrupts with humorous distractions • Gets carried away with jokes
Intense; More Sophisticated interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows high motivation / long attention span in interest area • Has a sophisticated sense of humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May suffer from peer isolation • A daydreamer • Resists interruption when involved in interest area
Wide Range of Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily motivated in new areas • Has many hobbies • Involved in many activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves projects unfinished • Overextends him/herself
Superior in Divergent Communication Ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has large vocabulary and accurate usage • Shows flair for various means of expression (e.g., graphics, drama) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be perceived as a "show-off" by peers and adults

"Outstanding talents are present in children from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor"

Source:

National Excellence: A Case for Developing America's Talent,

U.S. Department of Education (1993)