

# Common Characteristics of Gifted Children

## What to Look For

Although no two gifted children are exactly alike, there are some characteristics which gifted children share (in various combinations). Following are some of the behaviors a gifted student may show:

- uses a large vocabulary easily and accurately
- is effective in spoken and written communication
- has a rich reading background, often preferring adult books, and has a willingness to discuss materials
- has a wide range of interests, or in some cases a heavy concentration in one area
- spends time beyond usual assignments or schedules on things that interest him/her
- spends time on special projects of his/her own
- performs significantly above grade level in one or more school subjects
- usually receives good marks in school classes
- tends to figure out what is wrong with an activity and shows how it could be done better
- provides refreshing or new "twists" to old ideas
- has a superior memory or early mastery of basic skills
- shows little patience with routine procedures and skills
- asks penetrating questions, particularly about causes and reasons
- gets pleasure from intellectual activity, such as seeking answers to puzzles and problems
- is quick to recognize relationships
- likes structure, order and consistency
- shows versatility or virtuosity; has many hobbies
- shows critical thinking, evaluative testing and skepticism
- shows a keen sense of humor
- reasons things out for him/herself
- concerned with right and wrong, good and bad