

## Chart of Gifted Characteristics and Suggested Educational Strategies

Characteristic	Positive manifestation(s)	Potential negative manifestation(s)	Suggested Educational Strategies
Long attention span and intense concentration	Long periods of uninterrupted work time; depth of exploration in personal passions and interests	Transitions may be difficult; ignores others or activities;	
Preference for older playmates	Finds peers that have a similar style of play or passion for a topic	Older peers may not be easily accessible, also exposure to content that may not be developmentally appropriate	
Early and extensive vocabulary	Able to participate in advanced conversation; exploration of word play	May use words to manipulate; dominates conversations and discussions	
Excellent memory	Remembers facts, previously taught or encountered information;	Frustrated with repetition; remembers everything	
Extreme curiosity	Real world learning opportunities and applications; connect to various areas of learning	Excessive interests; asks embarrassing questions	
High activity level and unusual alertness	Likes to learn through movement;	Frustrated with inactivity, may appear hyperactive	
Rapid Learning ability	Rapid pace of instruction; limited repetition	Impatient with others; frustrated with perceived inactivity;	
Excellent sense of humor	Able to understand puns and playful language;	Peers may misunderstand the humor; may use sarcasm (which is often hurtful)	
Keen sense of observation	Joy and recognition in the little changes;	Nothing goes unnoticed;	
High degree of sensitivity	Ability to understand various aspects to information	Sensitive to feedback or criticism; become overwhelmed (sensorial)	
Abstract reasoning	Able to focus on bigger picture and not just the small details	Continues to question; wants to know more and why	

From *Teaching Young Gifted Children in the Today's Preschool and Primary Classrooms* by Joan Franklin Smutny, Sally Yahnke Walker, and Ellen I. Honeck.

*Chart adapted from Barbara Clark, Growing Up Gifted (Hoboken, NJ: Pearson 2012). And Gary Davis, Sylvia Rimm and Del Siegle, Education of the Gifted and Talented (Hoboken, NJ: Pearson 2010)*

Resource Samples to Consider:

Kingore, B. (2013). *Rigor and Engagement for Growing Minds: Strategies that Enable High-Ability Learners to Flourish in All Classrooms*. Austin, TX: PA Publishing.

Lawson, J. L. (2010). *Bright, Talented, & Black: A Guide for Families of African American Gifted Learners*. Scottsdale, AZ: Great Potential Press.

*Multicultural Education: Recommended Strategies for Teaching Culturally Diverse Students*. In *Teaching Culturally Diverse Students*. Eds. Ford, D. & Milner, R. (2015). Prufrock.

*Universal Design for Learning* at: <http://www.cast.org/>

<https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-education-practices>

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/Search-Database/entry/A10075>

<http://inservice.ascd.org/strategies-for-supporting-gifted-students/>

<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/differentiation.html>