

# Categories and Characteristics of Gifted and Talented Children



## Categories of Gifted Characteristics

### *Advanced Language*

The student unassumingly and appropriately displays an advanced vocabulary and an ability to effectively use more complex language in a variety of situations. The student naturally uses similes, metaphors, and analogies to express insights.

### *Analytical Thinking*

The student demonstrates an ability to discern components of a whole, solves more difficult problems, and strives to determine more complex, abstract relationships and patterns in procedures, experiences, ideas, and/or objects. The student may not appear organized yet enjoys organizing and planning events and procedures.

### *Meaning Motivation*

The student exhibits an inner drive for thorough, independent understanding that results in the development of expertise in one or more areas. The student is philosophical, pursues issues atypical of age mates, demonstrates an extensive memory, and asks penetrating, intellectual questions.

### *Perspective*

The student develops unique graphics or patterns and displays an ability to interpret and incorporate unexpected or unusual points of view through oral language, writing, manipulatives, art, and/or problem solving. The student insightfully interprets another's point of view.

### *Sense of Humor*

The student demonstrates an appreciation of high levels of humor and an application of finely developed sense of humor by understanding the subtle humor of others or by producing original jokes, puns, or other humorous effects. The student successfully uses humor to defuse volatile situations and gain approval.

### *Sensitivity*

The student is very concerned about human issues, demonstrates a strong sense of justice, is intensely sensitive to the needs and motivations of others, and sets high standards for self and others. Empathy is expressed through words, art, or actions.

## *Accelerated Learning*

The student demonstrates master or an ability to learn and interpret materials and concepts beyond the level of typically expected for that age group. Exposure increases the rate of learning. The student ably uses a variety of tools to access information beyond agemates.

Kingore, B. (2001). *The Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI)*. 2nd ed. Austin: Professional Associates Publishing.

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## **Characteristics of Gifted and Talented Children**

- They may show keen powers of observation and a sense of the significant; they have an eye for important details.
- They may read a great deal on their own, preferring books and magazines written for children older than they are.
- They often take great pleasure in intellectual activity.
- They have well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis.
- They readily see cause-effect relationships.
- They often display a questioning attitude and seek information for its own sake as much as for its usefulness.
- They are often skeptical, critical, and evaluative. They are quick to spot inconsistencies.
- They often have a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics, which they can recall quickly.
- They readily grasp underlying principles and can often make valid generalizations about events, people, or objects.
- They quickly perceive similarities, differences, and anomalies.
- They often attack complicated material by separating it into components and analyzing it systematically.

*Gifted students are served in the regular classroom setting and are given opportunities throughout the year to participate in activities designed for gifted and talented students. If you think that your child may be gifted, please contact the school for a nomination form so they can be assessed and possibly identified for the New Summerfield Gifted program. For further questions, contact Dr. Wilcox at 903-726-3306.*