

Characteristics of Bright and Gifted Learners

The following distinctions between high achievers and gifted learners was taken from the book, "Differentiation: Simplified, Realistic, and Effective," by Barbara Kingore, Ph. D.

We often expect gifted kids to be the highest achievers in school and are often frustrated when they are not. Some gifted students fit the model of good student and high achiever, however, some struggle to succeed in a variety of areas, including school.

Our goal is to make sure that all students succeed at their level of potential. If they are a struggling gifted student, we hope to find out how to help them succeed. Some gifted students are independent workers, some are highly self-critical, some may not be motivated by grades. If your child falls into any of these categories, please be sure to speak with their teacher about ways to help them succeed. They may not only need extra encouragement at school but may need help figuring out strategies at home that will also help them succeed in school.

A High Achiever

- Remembers the answers
- Is Interested
- Is Attentive
- Generates advanced ideas
- Works hard to Achieve
- Answers the questions in detail
- Performs at the top of the group
- Responds with interest and opinions
- Learns with ease
- Needs 6 to 8 repetitions to master
- Comprehends at a high level
- Enjoys the company of age peers
- Understands complex, abstract humor
- Grasps the meaning
- Completes assignments on time
- Is receptive
- Is accurate and complete
- Enjoys school often
- Absorbs information
- Is a technician with expertise in a field
- Memorizes well
- Is highly alert and observant
- Is pleased with own learning
- Gets A's
- Is able

A Gifted Learner

- Poses unforeseen questions
- Is curious
- Is selectively mentally engaged
- Generates complex, abstract ideas
- Knows without working hard
- Ponders with depth and multiple perspectives
- Is beyond the group
- Exhibits feelings and opinions from multiple perspectives
- Already knows
- Needs 1 to 3 repetitions to master
- Comprehends in-depth, complex ideas
- Prefers the company of intellectual peers
- Creates complex, abstract humor
- Infers and connects concepts
- Initiates projects and extensions of assignments
- Is intense
- Is original and continually developing
- Enjoys self-directed learning
- Manipulates information
- Is an expert, abstracting beyond the field
- Anticipates and relates observations
- Is self-critical
- May not be motivated by grades
- Is intellectual