



Strengths and Possible Challenges of the Gifted: An Informal and Educational Survey, 2 of 3

Name of Child: _____

Date of Survey: _____ Age of Child: _____

STRENGTHS	POSSIBLE CHALLENGES
Acquires and retains information quickly	Impatient with slowness of others; dislikes routine and drill; may resist mastering foundation skills; may make concepts unduly complex
Inquisitive attitude; intellectual curiosity; intrinsic motivation; searches for significance	Asks embarrassing questions; strong-willed; resists direction; seems excessive in interests; expects same of others
Ability to conceptualize, abstract, synthesize; enjoys problem solving and intellectual activity	Rejects or omits details; resists practice or drill; questions teaching procedures
Can see cause-effect relations	Difficulty accepting the illogical, such as feelings, traditions, or matters to be taken on faith
Love of truth, equity and fair play	Difficulty in being practical; worry about humanitarian concerns
Enjoys organizing things and people into structure and order; seeks to systematize	Constructs complicated rules or systems; may be seen as bossy, rude, or domineering
Large vocabulary and facile verbal proficiency; broad information in advanced areas	May use words to escape or avoid situations; becomes bored with school and age-peers; seen by others as a "know it all"
Thinks critically; has high expectancies; is self-critical and evaluates others	Critical or intolerant towards others; may become discouraged or depressed; perfectionistic
Keen observer; willing to consider the unusual; open to new experiences	Overly intense focus; occasional gullibility
Creative and inventive; likes new ways of doing things	May disrupt plans or reject what is already known; seen by others as different or out of step
Intense concentration; long attention span in areas of interest; goal directed behavior; persistence	Resists interruption; neglects duties or people during periods of focused interests, stubbornness
Sensitivity; empathy for others; desire to be accepted by others	Sensitivity to criticism or peer rejection; expects others to have similar values; need for success and recognition; may feel different and alienated
High energy, alertness, eagerness; periods of intense effort	Frustration with inactivity; eagerness may disrupt others' schedules; need continual stimulation; may be seen as hyperactive
Independent; prefers individualized work; self-reliant	May reject parent or peer input; non-conformity; may be unconventional
Diverse interests and abilities; versatility	May appear scattered and disorganized; frustrations over lack of time; others may expect continual competence
Strong sense of humor	Sees absurdities of situations; humor may not be understood by peers; may become 'class clown' to gain attention

If your child identifies with more than half of these characteristics, you have learned that giftedness comes with its own set of strengths and challenges. Being gifted is not easy. The more their strengths and challenges are both understood and serviced, the more likely it is for gifted children to lead successful lives. You are invited to connect with a local gifted support group. You are not alone.