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You know your child is gifted when . . .
you discover that your 9-year-old is putting all his homework in a computer folder titled "Stuff the world could do without."

-- Allison
"Congratulations!! He seems very bright."
Received constant reports of “poor achievement” and was a lousy speller
Robert Jarvik -

Invented the artificial heart

Was rejected by 15 American medical schools
From Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary

gifted 1: having great natural ability: TALENTED (~children)

2: revealing a special gift (~voices).
‘Gifted and talented children’ means children and, whenever applicable, youth, who are identified at the preschool, elementary, or secondary level as possessing demonstrated or potential abilities that give evidence of high performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, specific academic, or leadership ability, or in the performing and visual arts, and who by reason thereof require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school.”
WHAT MAKES GIFTEDNESS?

Above Average Ability

Task Commitment

Creativity

BONES
Bright Child

Knows the answers
Is Interested
Is Attentive
Has good ideas
Works hard
Answers the questions
Listens with interest
Learns with ease
6-8 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas
Enjoys peers
Grasps the meaning
Completes assignments
Is receptive
Copies accurately
Absorbs information
Technician
Enjoys straight forward presentation
Is alert
Is pleased with own learning

Gifted Learner

Asks the questions
Is highly interested
Mentally & physically involved
Has wild, silly ideas
Plays around, yet tests well
Discusses in detail, elaborates
Shows strong feelings & opinions
Already knows
1-2 repetitions for mastery
Constructs abstractions
Prefers adults
Draws inferences
Initiates projects
Is intense
Creates a new design
Manipulates information
Inventor
Thrives on complexity
Is keenly observant
Is highly self-critical

from Challenge Magazine by Janet Szabos
Knows the answers

Asks the questions

MEMRIC CLOCK
Is Interested

Is Highly Curious

None of my toys work because I took them all apart to see what makes them work.
Has good ideas

Has wild, silly ideas

**Fox Trot**

JASON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! BUILDING A MODEL ROCKET.

WHICH I WILL FILL WITH SALT AND SHOOT INTO A CLOUD.

THUS SEEDING IT FOR RAIN.

I ASKED YOU TO WATER THE LAWN! LOOK, YOU DO THINGS YOUR WAY, I DO THEM MY WAY.
"Look, Tom, look. It is good. Yes, good. The end. Published by Kaleidoscopic Enterprises. 437 Schermerhorn Boulevard."
6-8 Repetitions for mastery

1-2 Repetitions

Understands ideas

Constructs abstractions
Is receptive

Is intense

Copies accurately

Creates a new design
When sun comes up, magnifying glass (A) burns hole in paper bag (B), dropping water into ladle (C) and lifting gate (D), which allows heavy ball (E) to roll down chute (F) - Rope (G) lifts bed (H) into vertical position and drops you into your shoes (I).

P.S. You can't go back and sneak a few winks because there's no place to lie down!
Enjoys straightforward presentation

Thrives on complexity

45 mph.

Jason, you forgot to put your name on your homework again.

Oops, how'd you know it was mine?
Is alert

Is keenly observant

Is pleased with own learning

Is highly self-critical
“It isn’t any great prize to be gifted, in fact, it can be a curse.”

Arthur R. Collins
Social and Emotional Characteristics of Gifted Children Which May Pose Challenges

- perceptiveness
- high involvement and preoccupation; need to understand
- heightened sensitivity
- perfectionism
- uneven integration of intellectual abilities
- emotional intensity
• feelings and early awareness of being different
• asynchronous development of physical, intellectual, social, emotional aspects
• anxiety caused by advanced knowledge
• early adolescence (some children, especially highly gifted, may skip the latency stage of development)
• need for mental stimulation
• excitability and overexcitability
• need for precision
• tendency toward introversion
Asynchronous Development

A four year old gifted student may have the intellectual interests of an 8 year old, but will not have the physical / social development of an older kid. The four year old may feel out of it with age mates and not quite fit in with the older children either.
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson
Stress

Too much stress can cause physical symptoms such as headaches, stomachaches and even depression.

Combat stress with:

• Deep-breathing, exercise
• “Space” for daydreaming
• One-at-a-time Thinking
Ask yourself --
Do you . . .

• set unreasonable goals for yourself?

• have difficulty enjoying the present moment because you are preoccupied with overcoming the next “hurdle”?

• have difficulty in relationships because you expect too much of yourself and others?
  • judge others critically?
Ask yourself --
Do you . . .

• constantly compare yourself with others?

• fear making mistakes?

• procrastinate because you need to do something perfectly?
I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it.

– Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)
Social and Emotional Findings

www.prufrock.com
Brochures available in English & Spanish

✓ “What Parents Need to Know About Recognizing and Encouraging Interests, Strengths, and Talents of Young Gifted Children.”

✓ “What Parents Need to Know About Recognizing and Encouraging Interests, Strengths, and Talents of Gifted Elementary School Children.”

✓ “What Parents Need to Know About Recognizing and Encouraging Interests, Strengths, and Talents of Gifted Adolescents.”
Consider joining NAGC for the great resources for parents, conferences, etc.

www.nagc.org
Problems with Perfect

Perfectionism can be a serious threat to the gifted. While there is room for a healthy dose of perfectionism, when it runs rampant, gifted children can suffer emotionally. For that matter, adults can too! Take the following quiz - are you a perfectionist?

Do you...

- set unreasonable goals for yourself?
- have difficulty enjoying the present moment because you are preoccupied with life's next hurdle?
- have difficulty in relationships because you expect too much of yourself or others?
- plan compulsively?
- procrastinate because of a need to do something "perfectly"?
- become dissatisfied with situations that are not "ideal"?
- worry excessively about making mistakes?

*Quiz adapted from Galbraith and Delisle, 1996*
Thank You for Coming