

# Is This Child Gifted?

## Language Skills

Psychology Today

Some of the traits of giftedness to look for when considering your child's language development in relation to others of a similar age include:

- A highly developed vocabulary and the ability to learn new words easily.
- The tendency to speak quickly.
- The early use of longer, more complex sentences while using appropriate grammar.
- Early reading, if given some instruction and opportunity. Many gifted children have already learned how to read before entering school.
- Continually asking questions about what they see and hear, and wanting to receive thorough responses and explanations.
- The ability to understand and carry out multi-step directions at an early age.
- The ability to understand and participate in adult conversations. Gifted children often pick up nuances or double meanings early on - so watch what you say!
- The ability to change the language they use when speaking to different audiences.

## Learning Abilities

All children (all people really, big and small) have an inborn desire to learn about the world around them - to seek out new experiences, figure out the relationship between themselves and their surroundings, to discover, and to learn. What distinguishes gifted children from others is the apparent natural ease and joy with which they go about doing this. Their brains appear to be mental sponges, effortlessly absorbing and incorporating new information and ideas.

Many gifted children are natural learners who show some of the following characteristics:

- The ability to learn quickly and efficiently - to pick up ideas and skills effortlessly.
- A tendency to become highly focused on certain areas of interest (e.g., bugs, space, animals) and independently seek out information on these topics.
- The ability to ask questions that show advanced insight or understanding.
- A deep fund of knowledge - they know more about the world around them than you would expect.
- Excellent memory and easy recall of what they previously heard, saw, or learned.

- A tendency to read often on their own and to frequently prefer reading to more physical activities.
- Little need for direction or instruction when beginning a new activity, learning a new game, or acquiring a new skill. They may also insist on doing things on their own, or in their own way.
- Pleasure in talking to older children and adults about topics that interest them.
- An understanding of their own thinking and learning processes. They may have preferred ways of learning and resist using other methods suggested by a teacher or adult.
- Creative thinking. Gifted children may enjoy coming up with their own ways to solve problems and take delight in complexity and making connections between seemingly unrelated ideas or concepts.
- The ability to concentrate on a topic of interest for an unusually long period of time. However, gifted children may quickly shift their attention or appear unfocused when doing something they perceive as unchallenging or uninteresting.
- An inclination to see learning as fun. They take joy in discovering new interests or grasping new concepts.

### **Emotional and Behavioral Traits**

Gifted children are often more emotionally intense than others. They can also be more sensitive to others' feelings and circumstances and may display a great deal of empathy in situations where others their age appear indifferent.

### ***Other emotional or behavioral traits to look for include:***

- A high activity level. Gifted children can appear to have an endless source of energy - constantly moving, talking, asking and exploring.
- The tendency to think and talk fast. Because they may be trying to speak as quickly as they think, gifted children are often asked to "slow down" so the listener can understand them.
- Strong leadership qualities. Some gifted kids often make natural leaders who take charge and lead others in new directions.
- Ability to relate to older kids and adults. Because their cognitive skills and interests can be advanced for their years, gifted kids have an easier time connecting with and learning from those older than themselves.
- Enjoyment of alone time.
- Appreciation of natural beauty and art.