

Characteristics of Gifted Students and How They May Be Perceived

POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS	NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS
Skills • Superior range • Masters skills at a more rapid pace	Skills • May dominate others because of abilities • May be bored with routine and repetitive tasks
Knowledge • Exhibits a deeper level of knowledge than same-aged peers	Knowledge • May be intolerant of others
Task Commitment • Persistent, self-motivated, and able to stay on task	Task Commitment • May prolong closure of tasks
Curiosity • Intensely interested in a wide variety of things • Asks many questions	Curiosity • May interrupt or ignore others to pursue individual interests
Elaboration • Able to incorporate detail beyond expectations	Elaboration • May bore peers with too much detail
Imagination • Highly imaginative. May use fantasy to enhance learning and exploration	Imagination • May be considered “goofy” or inappropriate
Originality • Expresses ideas in unique and unusual ways	Originality • May be considered unusual or “silly” by others • May refuse to accept authority and be non-conforming
Flexibility • Has high tolerance for ambiguity	Flexibility • May be impatient when restrictions are imposed
Emotions • Shows a strong sense of justice • Sensitive to the feelings of others	Emotions • May appear overly sensitive • May become “fanatic” about an issue
Social Relationship • Relates positively to peers and adults	Social Relationship • May appear to be “teacher’s pet”