



## Gifted Characteristics in the School Environment

The following characteristics of the gifted in the school environment are common. They should be considered when related to other children of similar age.

- Shows superior abilities to reason, generalize or problem solve
- Shows persistent intellectual curiosity
- Dominates or withdraws in cooperative learning situations
- Has a wide range of interests; develops one or more interests to considerable depth
- Sustains concentration for lengthy periods on topics or activities of interest
- Extremely focused on (resists distraction from) interesting topics or activities
- Produces superior written work or has a large vocabulary
- Ignores details, turns in messy work
- Reads avidly - or may be a highly proficient reader, but does not enjoy reading at all.
- Can be highly sensitive to environment – sensitive to light or noise stimuli. (This can sometimes make reading a very difficult task or unenjoyable.)
- Learns quickly and retains what is learned
- Grasps mathematical or scientific concepts readily
- Shows creative ability or imaginative expression in the arts
- Gets bored with routine tasks
- Sets high standards for self
- Overly critical of self and others, impatient with failure, perfectionistic
- Shows initiative, originality, or flexibility in thinking; considers problems from a number of viewpoints
- Disagrees vocally with others, argues with teachers
- Rejects authority, is non-conforming, stubborn
- Observes keenly and is responsive to new ideas
- Shows social poise or an ability to communicate with adults in a mature way
- Can be emotionally sensitive & empathetic. Adults may consider it over-reaction. May get angry or cry when things seem to go wrong or seem unfair
- Enjoys intellectual challenge; shows an alert and subtle sense of humor
- Makes jokes or puns that adults may consider inappropriate

These reactions of gifted students to the regular education environment are normal only within the context of an understanding of the gifted. Without that understanding, these characteristics are sometimes used to misdiagnose or mislabel the student as having ADD/ADHD or SED. A thorough evaluation/screening is crucial.

An important resource for Florida parents considering having their children screened as gifted is the **Florida Department of Education Handbook for Parents of Gifted Students** (free download at: [www.FLDOE.org/ESE/pdf/p-gifted.pdf](http://www.FLDOE.org/ESE/pdf/p-gifted.pdf)). Additional important resources for gifted children and parents can be found at: [www.QuestGAC.org](http://www.QuestGAC.org)

If you have questions, please contact the **Director of Exceptional Student Education** at 352-797-7022 or contact the **Quest Academy Gifted Advisory Council** at [Info@QuestGAC.org](mailto:Info@QuestGAC.org).