

## Summary

Parents are often the first to recognise that their child is bright for his or her age. There are some characteristics that are common amongst gifted children, though not every gifted child will have all of them. Below is a list of the most common characteristics of gifted children.

### If your child is gifted, they will fit most, but not all, of the following characteristics:

- Developed speech early and extensive vocabulary
- Reasons well
- Asks lots of questions
- Extremely curious
- Wide general knowledge and interest in the world
- Keen observer
- Early or avid reader
- Learns rapidly
- Very retentive memory
- Perseverant in their interests
- Can concentrate for long periods on subjects of interest
- Enjoys problem-solving, often missing out the intermediate stages in an argument and making original connections
- Extremely good at puzzles
- Highly creative
- Unusual and vivid imagination
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Strong concern for justice and fairness
- Questions authority
- Odd sense of humour
- Sets high standards and is a perfectionist
- Loses interest when asked to do more of the same
- Emotionally sensitive (may be sensitive to bad things they see going on in the world e.g. flood)
- Hypersensitive (may be sensitive to tags in clothes, smells, sounds or light)
- Shows compassion and is morally sensitive
- Prefers older companions or adults (sometimes younger children)
- A high degree of energy
- Facility with numbers

### Related Information

<i>P01 Is My Young Child Gifted?</i>	NAGC Fact Sheet about the characteristics of young gifted children. <a href="http://www.nagcbrtain.org.uk/parents.php?id=92">www.nagcbrtain.org.uk/parents.php?id=92</a>
<i>P09 Needs of Gifted Children</i>	NAGC Fact Sheet about the needs of gifted children.
<a href="http://giftedkids.about.com/od/gifted101/a/giftedtraits.htm">giftedkids.about.com/od/gifted101/a/giftedtraits.htm</a>	Site with a good section on the characteristics of gifted children.
<a href="http://www.mensa.org.uk/">www.mensa.org.uk/</a>	Mensa website with a dedicated section on gifted children.
<a href="http://www.brainy-child.com/article/gifted-child.html">www.brainy-child.com/article/gifted-child.html</a>	Brainy Child site that lists characteristics.
<i>Gifted Children – A Guide for Parents and Professionals</i> edited by Kate Distin	This book explores the gifted mind and the social and emotional needs of gifted children and their families.
<i>How to Raise a Bright Child (0-5)</i> by Dr Joan Freeman	An inspiring book to help parents develop their child's natural talents.
<i>Raising Gifted Kids: Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Exceptional Child Thrive</i> by Barbara Klein	Helps parents understand and cope with the obstacles they face in raising a gifted child, and helps them make the best choices for their child's growth and happiness.