

The Bright Child Vs the Gifted Child

If you ask the teacher who the gifted kids are, they are likely to point out the ones that are *bright*. Bright kids are a joy to teach. They listen well, don't question the teacher, work hard and answer questions. They don't challenge the teacher's competence or stray off the curriculum.

Bright kids enjoy school and get challenged with the work that they are asked to do. They find the work neither too hard nor too easy.

The gifted child on the other hand may be spending almost all of the school day thinking or doing something other than what the teacher wants. They find the constant repetition so boring that they often don't shine in the classroom. You might find the gifted child day dreaming, looking out of the window, reading a book instead of listening.

Gifted children often hate school and are not challenged at all by the work presented to them and the concepts and ideas being taught are far below their intellectual prowess. The problems that this creates are many and varied. Some may go underground and not perform, some may bully other kids, some might annoy the teacher with wild and silly sounding ideas and suggestions and further annoy the teacher by doing very little work but demonstrating mastery of a subject when it comes to test time.

In general....

The Bright Child...

Knows the answer

Is interested.

Is attentive

Has good ideas

Works hard

Answers the questions

Top Group

Listens with interest

Learns with ease

6-8 repetitions for mastery

Understands ideas

Enjoys peers

Grasps the meaning

Completes assignments

Is receptive

Copies accurately

Enjoys school

Absorbs information.

Technician

Good Memorizer

Is alert

Is pleased with own learning

Enjoys straight-forward and/or sequential presentation

The Gifted Child...

Asks the questions - sometimes deep probing questions of an abstract nature.

Is highly curious

Is mentally and physically involved

Has wild, silly ideas

Plays around, yet tests well

Discusses in detail, elaborates

Beyond the group

Shows strong feelings and opinions

Already knows

1-2 repetitions for mastery

Constructs abstractions

Prefers adults or older children or seeks out other very bright or gifted peers.

Draws inferences and opens up new questions.

Initiates projects

Is intense

Creates a new design

Enjoys learning - but may hate school.

Manipulates information

Inventor - Loves construction toys

Good guesser - draws on vast information store.

Is keenly observant - seems to remember fine details.

Is highly self-critical - can be perfectionistic to the point of tantrums when young.

Thrives on complexity - needs the whole picture. Requires a gestalt approach.