

Characteristics of Highly Capable Children

“Bright Child vs. Highly Capable Learner”

Bright Child	Highly Capable Learner
Knows the answer	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
3-5 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys straightforward, sequential presentation	Thrives on observing
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

What Does Highly Capable Mean?

Being Highly Capable means having an extraordinary intellect or academic aptitude, or having ability or potential for advanced creative thinking. Some examples include:

- Advanced vocabulary
- Curiosity (asks endless questions)
- Sophisticated sense of humor
- Experiments with ideas
- Advanced creativity
- Perfectionist

In addition, the following information identifies characteristics which may mask giftedness.

<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks many questions and is very curious • Possesses a large amount of information • Has a good memory 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily get “off task” and “off topic” • Become impatient when not called on in class • Be intensely interested
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learns new information quickly • Retains information easily • Masters reading skills earlier • Demonstrates strong abilities in math • Displays unusual academic achievement • Finishes class work quickly 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become easily bored • Become disruptive in class • Show strong resistance to repetitive activities and memorization • Complete work quickly but sloppily
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is interested in many things • Becomes involved in a variety of activities • Is motivated to try new things • Enjoys a challenge 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resist working on activities apart from areas of interest • Leave projects unfinished • Take on too much and become overwhelmed
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinks independently • Expresses unique and original opinions • Is self-motivated 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge authority • Not handle criticism well • Not work well in groups
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses higher level thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) • Makes connections other students don’t see • Considers unusual approaches to problem solving 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to be absent-minded regarding practical details • Forget homework assignments
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a strong sense of justice • Likes to debate current issues and real life problems 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be very critical of self and others • Like to argue a point • Be a perfectionist and expect others to be perfect as well
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a sophisticated sense of humor • Understands subtle humor • Enjoys plays on words and satire 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily get carried away with a joke • Have a tendency to become the “class clown”
<p>The Highly Capable student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong expressive skills • Is sensitive to feelings of others • Elaborates on ideas • Shows skills in drama/art/music/language 	<p>Some may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be perceived as a “know it all” by peers • Be sometimes “bossy” to peers in group situations