



Things to look for...

If you've met one gifted child, you certainly haven't met them all! Every student at OWS is unique and no one child mirrors another. Here are a few of the characteristics teachers look for in a regular classroom to help them identify gifted students.

What do teachers notice about gifted students in a classroom?

Parents are frequently curious about the characteristics that make gifted students stand out in a group of their peers. "How can I know my child is gifted? What do I look for? What are the characteristics of a gifted child?" The following list includes the traits many schools look for as they consider which students to recommend for Gifted and Talented Education testing. Not all gifted children will demonstrate all of the characteristics listed. In fact, many gifted children exhibit just a few. These characteristics are most likely to be observed when a child is fully engaged in an activity and may not be present in other situations.

- 1. Superior problem solving/reasoning abilities**
- 2. Rapid learning ability**
- 3. Extensive vocabulary beyond grade level**
- 4. Excellent memory**
- 5. Long attention span without losing interest**
- 6. Sensitivity**
- 7. Compassion for others beyond age norms**
- 8. Perfectionism**
- 9. High degree of energy**
- 10. Preference for older companions**
- 11. Wide range of interests in great depth**
- 12. Excellent and sometimes unusual sense of humor**
- 13. Early or avid reading ability well beyond grade level**
- 14. Superior with puzzles, mazes, or numbers**
- 15. Is perceived as mature for age**