CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED CHILDREN - Positive and Negative Behaviors Which May Be Exhibited

Characteristic	Positive Behavior	Negative Behavior
Learns rapidly/easily	memorizes and masters basic facts quickly	gets bored easily, resists drill, disturbs others
> reads intensively	reads many books and uses library on own	neglects other responsibilities
advanced vocabulary	communicates ideas well	shows off, invokes peer resentment
retains a quantity of information	ready recall and responses	monopolizes discussions
long attention span	sticks with a task or project	resists class routine, dislikes interruptions
curious, has a variety of interests	asks questions, gets excited about ideas	goes on tangents, no follow-through
works independently	creates and invents beyond assigned tasks	refuses to work with others
> alert and observant	recognizes problems	impolitely corrects adults
has a good sense of humor	able to laugh at self	plays cruel jokes or tricks on others
> comprehends, recognizes relationships	able to solve social problems alone	interferes in the affairs of others
high academic achievement	does school work well	brags, egotistical, impatient with others
> fluent, verbal facility	forceful with words, numbers; leads peers in positive ways	leads others into negative behavior
> individualistic	asserts self and ideas, has a sense of own uniqueness	has few friends, stubborn in beliefs
> self motivated, self-sufficient	requires minimum teacher direction or help	is overly aggressive, challenges authority

From: "What to Expect When You're Raising a Gifted Child: a handbook for parents of gifted children." Published by the Ohio Association for Gifted Children