

Differences Between the Bright Child and the Gifted Learner

All descriptors represent a continuum of behaviors rather than extremes.

Bright Child	→	Gifted Learner
Knows the answers .....	→	..... Asks the questions
Is interested .....	→	..... Is highly curious
Is attentive .....	→	..... Is mentally and physically involved
Has good ideas .....	→	..... Has wild, silly ideas
Works hard .....	→	..... Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions .....	→	..... Discusses in detail, elaborates
Is in the top group .....	→	..... Goes beyond the group
Listens with interest .....	→	..... Shows strong feelings and opinions
Learns with ease .....	→	..... Already knows
Requires 6–8 repetitions for mastery ....	→	..... Requires 1–2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas .....	→	..... Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers .....	→	..... Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning .....	→	..... Draws inferences
Completes assignments .....	→	..... Initiates projects
Is receptive .....	→	..... Is intense
Copies accurately .....	→	..... Creates a new design
Enjoys school .....	→	..... Enjoys learning
Absorbs information .....	→	..... Manipulates information
Is a technician .....	→	..... Is an inventor
Is a good memorizer .....	→	..... Is a good guesser
Enjoys straightforward sequential presentation .....	→	..... Thrives on complexity
Is alert.....	→	..... Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning .....	→	..... Is highly self-critical

Adapted with permission from "Differences Between the Bright Child and the Gifted Learner" by Janice Szabos Robbins.

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