

Is Your Child Gifted?

Many parents believe their child is smarter than the average child. Some blame their child's behavior problems on boredom in school. Other parents wonder if their child's lack of friends stems from being smarter than her peers. They ask the question "Is my child gifted?"

All kids are unique and have special abilities. Most kids, however, are not gifted students. Statistics show that 2% to 5% of kids are truly gifted. Of that group, 1 in 100 is highly gifted. Child prodigies are 1 or 2 per million.

The definition of *gifted* has no one universal standard. One federal law defines gifted students. These students perform or show promise of performing at high levels in any one of these categories:

- General
- Intellectual
- Academics
- Creative thinking
- Leadership ability or
- Artistic ability.

No definite sign measures giftedness. However, many gifted children share some common traits.

Did your young child:

- Walk or talk earlier than other kids?
- Read books at an early age? Know more words than kids his age?
- Remember complex events even as a young child?

- Study his toys or devices? Pull them apart to see how they work?

Your child *may* be gifted if:

- She is curious and asks many questions.
- He performs unusually well in an academic subject like math or writing.
- She has a special talent or intense interest in music, dance or art.
- He prefers older kids and adults rather than kids his age.
- She memorizes and recalls facts easily.
- He has a large vocabulary. He understands words his peers do not understand.
- She is a very good problem solver.
- He is very sensitive – to other's feelings or an injured animal.

Some gifted children are not model students. They do not fit in at school or with peers. Some gifted students have a learning disability. Educators may discover the disability but miss the giftedness.



If you think your child is gifted:

- Contact your school principal. Ask about testing. Psychologists conduct tests for giftedness. Private testing can be expensive.
- Look at her achievement test scores.
- Observe your child.
- Listen to teachers, family and friends comments about him.

*Brought to you by Parent Help Line at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital
to help keep kids safe, healthy and happy.*



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
www.parenthelpline.org



Revised 2017