



A High-Achiever Vs. A Gifted Learner*

Not every gifted child will display every trait, and perhaps not in every academic area. This is intended as a guideline to help understand the difference between high-achieving and gifted children.

A High Achiever	A Gifted Learner
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is intellectually engaged
Has good ideas	Has original ideas
Works hard	Performs with ease; learning comes easily
Commits time & effort to learning	May need less time to excel
Answers questions	Responds with detail & unique perspectives
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Copies & responds accurately	Creates new & original products
Is a top student	Is beyond age peers
Needs 6 - 8 repetitions for mastery	Needs 1 - 2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Grasps meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Is a technician	Is an innovator
Is a good memorizer	Is insightful; makes connections with ease
Is receptive	Is intense
Listens with interest	Displays strong feelings, opinions, & perspectives
Prefers sequential presentation of information	Thrives on complexity
Is pleased with his or her own learning	Is highly self-critical

**Based on a concept from "The Gifted and Talented Child" by Janice Szabos, Maryland Council for Gifted & Talented, Inc.*