

**HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Gifted and Talented Education**  
**20451 Cramer Lane Huntington Beach, CA 92646**

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFTED AND TALENTED**

### *General Characteristics of Gifted/Talented Children*

- They typically learn to read earlier with a better comprehension of the nuances of the language.
- They commonly learn basic skills better, more quickly, and with less practice.
- They are better able to construct and handle abstractions than are their age mates.
- They take less for granted, seeking the “how’s” and “why’s”.
- They display a better ability to work independently at an earlier age and for longer periods of time than do other children.
- They can sustain longer periods of concentration and attention.
- They frequently have seemingly boundless energy, which sometimes leads to a misdiagnosis of “hyperactivity.”

### *Creative Characteristics*

- They are fluent thinkers who are able to produce a large quantity of possibilities and consequences of related ideas.
- They are flexible thinkers, able to use many different alternatives and approaches to problem solving.
- They are original thinkers, seeking new, unusual or unconventional associations and combinations among items of information.
- They are elaborative thinkers, producing new steps, ideas, responses or other embellishments to a basic, idea, situation or problem.
- They have a high level of curiosity about objects, ideas, situations or events.
- They often display intellectual playfulness, fantasize, and imagine readily.

### *Learning Characteristics*

- They often read a great deal on their own, preferring books and magazines for youngsters older than they are.
- They take great pleasure in intellectual activity.
- They have well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesizing abilities.
- They have rapid insight into cause and effect relationships.
- They are often skeptical, critical, and evaluative. They are quick to spot inconsistencies.
- They show a ready grasp of underlying principles and can often make valid generalizations about events, people, or objects.
- They readily perceive similarities, differences, and anomalies.

### *Behavioral Characteristics*

- They exhibit an intrinsic motivation to learn, find out, or explore and are often very persistent.
- They have a longer attention and concentration span than their peers.
- They are more independent and less subject to peer pressures than are their age mates.
- They have a highly developed moral and ethical sense.
- They often exhibit daydreaming behavior.
- They may seek to conceal their abilities so as not to “stick out.”