Characteristics of Students with High Abilities

There are several characteristics or traits you might observe in your child's natural abilities, which we have come to associate with giftedness.

In summarizing her work with gifted children, Silverman (2003) suggests that if a child demonstrates more than three-quarters of the following traits, it is likely that he or she is gifted:

- good problem solving and reasoning abilities
- rapid learning ability
- extensive vocabulary
- excellent memory
- long attention span
- personal sensitivity
- compassion for others
- perfectionism
- intensity
- moral sensitivity
- unusual curiosity
- persevering when interested
- high degree of energy
- preference for older companions
- wide range of interests
- great sense of humor
- early or avid reading ability
- concerned with justice, fairness
- at times, judgment seems mature for age
- keen powers of observation
- vivid imagination
- high degree of creativity
- tends to question authority
- shows ability with numbers
- good at visual puzzles