

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

	<b>Traditional Characteristics of Gifted Students</b>	<b>Gifted Students with Disabilities</b>
<b>Basic Skills</b>	Ability to learn basic skills quickly and easily and retain information with less repetition	Often struggles to learn basic skills due to cognitive processing difficulties; needs to learn compensatory strategies in order to acquire basic skills and information
<b>Verbal Skills</b>	High verbal ability	High verbal ability but extreme difficulty in written language area; may use language in inappropriate ways and at inappropriate times
<b>Leadership</b>	Exhibits leadership ability	Often leader among the more non-traditional students; demonstrates strong "street-wise" behavior; the disability may interfere with ability to exercise leadership skills
<b>Broad Interests</b>	Wide range of interests	Wide range of interests but is process/learning problems impede their pursuit of them
<b>Focused Interests</b>	Very focused interest, i.e., a passion about a certain topic to the exclusion of others	Very focused interests, i.e., a passion about a certain topic to the exclusion of others - often not school related subjects
<b>Humor</b>	Unusual, often highly developed sense of humor	Humor may be used to divert attention from school failure; may use humor to make fun of peers or to avoid trouble
<b>Maturity</b>	May mature at different rates than age peers	Sometimes appears immature since they may use anger, crying, withdrawal, etc. to express feelings and to deal with difficulties
<b>Independence</b>	Sense of independence	Requires frequent teacher support and feedback in deficit areas; highly independent in other areas; often appears to be extremely stubborn and inflexible
<b>Reading Ability</b>	Early reading ability	Frequently has reading problems due to cognitive processing deficits
<b>Observation Skills</b>	Keen powers of observation	Strong observation skills but often has deficits in memory
<b>Organization</b>	Organizational skills can vary; some gifted students can be very organized while others struggle	Usually struggle with organization; organization of things, ideas, and time
<b>Problem Solving</b>	Strong critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills	Excels in "real-world" problems; outstanding critical thinking and decision-making skills; often independently develops compensatory skills

<b>Persistence</b>	Long attention-span; persistent, intense concentration	Attention is frequently impacted; may be able to concentrate for long periods of time in areas of interest
<b>Emotionality</b>	Sensitive	Sensitive regarding disability area(s); highly critical of self and others including teachers; can express concern about the feelings of others even while engaging in anti-social behaviors
<b>Social Skills</b>	May not be accepted by other children and may feel isolated	May be perceived as a loner since they do not fit typical model for either a gifted or a learning disabled student; sometimes has difficulty being accepted by peers due to poor social skills
<b>Curiosity</b>	Questioning Attitude	Strong questioning attitude, may appear disrespectful when questioning information, facts, etc. presented by teacher
<b>Creativity</b>	Creative in the generation of thoughts, ideas, actions; innovative	Unusual imagination; frequently generates original and at times rather "bizarre" ideas; extremely divergent in thought; may appear to daydream when generating ideas
<b>Risk Taking</b>	Takes risks	Often unwilling to take risks with regard to academics; takes risks in non-school areas without consideration of consequences