

Early Signs of Exceptional Ability

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

1. _____ Abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills
2. _____ Advanced progression through developmental milestones
3. _____ Strong Curiosity
4. _____ Early and extensive language development
5. _____ Early recognition of caretakers (for example, smiling)
6. _____ Enjoyment and speed of learning
7. _____ Excellent sense of humor
8. _____ Extraordinary memory
9. _____ High activity level
10. _____ Intense reactions to noise, pain, or frustration
11. _____ Less need for sleep in infancy
12. _____ Long attention span
13. _____ Sensitivity and compassion
14. _____ Perfectionism
15. _____ Unusual alertness in infancy
16. _____ Vivid imagination (for example, imaginary companions)

The above list should not be viewed as a listing of traits inclusive of all high ability children. Many children will have these traits but for a high ability child, the traits are found to a greater degree and combination. It is better to focus on a range of behaviors to observe in daily conversations, activities, and interactions with objects, people, and ideas over an extended period of time.