

Gifted English Language Learners

Characteristics of Gifted English Language Learners

Characteristics

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong desire to learn in English and their heritage language• High interest in certain topics• Quick grasp of new information• Evidence of creative ability in problem solving or thinking• Ability to see relationships and make connections• Ability to improvise with everyday objects• Exceptional ability in any of the fine arts• Exceptional talent in areas valued by their culture• High standards for themselves• Curiosity• Persistence• Keen power of observation• Self-direction• Tendency to dominate peers or situations• Take on leadership roles with other students from the same culture• Ability to carry responsibilities well• Sense of originality and imagination• Ability to express feelings and emotions• Articulate in role-playing and storytelling• Richness in imaginary and informal language | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eagerly shares culture• Shows strong desire to teach peers words from heritage language• Has a strong sense of pride in his or her cultural background• Eagerly interprets and translates for peers and adults at high levels of accuracy• Balances appropriate behaviors expected of the heritage culture and new culture• Possesses advanced knowledge of idioms and native dialects with ability to interpret and explain meanings in English• Understands jokes and puns in English• Has advanced sense of humor• Reads in heritage language two or more grades above grade level• Functions at language proficiency levels above that of nongifted peers who are ELL• Ability to code-switch• Possesses cross-cultural flexibility• Has a sense of global community and an awareness of other cultures and languages• Learns a second or third language at an accelerated pace• Excels in math achievement |
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Adapted from: Special Populations in Gifted Education, Understanding Our Most Able Students from Diverse Backgrounds,
by Jaime Castellano and Andrea Dawn Frasier