

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Gifted students are not always high achievers. Identification can be difficult as sometimes students hide their abilities to fit in, their exceptional skills could lie in another domain or a learning difficulty could mask their true capabilities. Sometimes traits and abilities are only shown at home and hidden at school, parents can add valuable information.

Would you like further information or assistance?
Reach out via admin@theheadoffice.org.nz. We are here to help.



VOCABULARY & SENSE OF HUMOUR

Unusually advanced language skills for his/her age, often avid readers, comfortable with complex reading material, advanced sense of humour, picks up subtleties that others don't notice



CURIOSITY, MEMORY & KNOWLEDGE

Asks endless and insightful questions; unusually focused when interested; advanced recall of facts; points out connections, uses, manipulates and adapts information



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Empathetic, reads body language well; sensitive to others' feelings; often relates better to older children or adults; can be easily frustrated by behaviour of others; prefers working alone vs in a team



INTENSE INTERESTS & JOY OF LEARNING

Quickly grasps new concepts and makes connections using deep thinking; is passionate, shows unwavering attention sometimes to the point of stubbornness; sits patiently when reading or listening to books



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Leadership abilities; high sense of justice; Manaakitanga (giving mana to people thus maintaining your own); Kaitiakitanga (guardianship of knowledge, environment and resources); Rangatiratanga (leadership that inspires unity)



CREATIVITY

Rich imagination, out-of-the box thinker, sees novel ways of solving problems, makes connections between concepts to create new solutions; enjoys drawing, building, creating.



GIFTED GIRLS - HIDING ABILITIES & UNDERACHIEVEMENT

Gifted girls often hide their true abilities for fear of standing out. But there are certain signs to spot them in the classroom and parents can add valuable information about the girls interests and traits shown at home:

- Discrepancy between what is verbally contributed and written work - self sabotage
- evidence of greater understanding & retention in a field of interest
- excellent general knowledge
- creative, vivid imagination
- inter- & intrapersonal sensitivity, difficulty maintaining friendships
- perfectionism, self-criticism, persistent dissatisfaction with own work
- low self-esteem, can withdraw or behave aggressively in the classroom

High Achiever

VERSUS

Gifted



Remembers the answers

poses unforeseen questions and sees exceptions

Is attentive

is selectively engaged, daydreams, may seem off-task

generates advanced ideas

generates complex, abstract ideas often plenty of them

works hard to achieve

knows without working hard, plays with ideas and concepts

gets high grades

may not be motivated by grades

absorbs information

manipulates information and improvises

learns with ease

already knows, questions 'what if...'

performs at the top of the group

is beyond the group or is it's own group

enjoys the company of age peers

prefers the company of intellectual or creative peers but often works alone