

Differences between the Bright Child and the High Ability Learner

All descriptors represent a continuum of behaviors rather than extremes.

Bright Child

Knows the answers.....
Is interested.....
Is attentive.....
involved
Has good ideas.....
Works hard.....
Answers the questions.....
elaborates
Is in the top group.....
Listens with interest.....
opinions
Learns with ease.....
Needs 6-8 repetitions for mastery...
Understands ideas.....
Enjoys peers.....
Grasps the meaning.....
Completes assignments.....
Is receptive.....
Copies accurately.....
Enjoys school.....
Absorbs information.....
Is a technician.....
Is a good memorizer.....
Enjoys straightforward sequential presentation...
Is alert.....
Is pleased with own learning.....

High Ability Learner

→.....Asks the questions
→.....Is highly curious
→.....Is mentally & physically
→.....Has wild, silly ideas
→.....Plays around, yet tests well
→.....Discusses in detail,
→.....Goes beyond the group
→.....Shows strong feelings &
→.....Already knows
→.....Needs 1-2 repetitions for mastery
→.....Constructs abstractions
→.....Prefers adults
→.....Draws inferences
→.....Initiates projects
→.....Is intense
→.....Creates a new design
→.....Enjoys learning
→.....Manipulates information
→.....Is an inventor
→.....Is a good guesser
→.....Thrives on complexity
→.....Is keenly observant
→.....Is highly self-critical

Adapted with permission from "Differences Between the Bright Child and the Gifted Learner" by Janice Szabos Robbins.

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