DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BRIGHT CHILD AND THE GIFTED LEARNER

(All descriptors represent a continuum of behaviors rather than extremes)

BRIGHT CHILD

GIFTED LEARNER

Knows the answers Is interested Is attentive Has good ideas Works hard

Answers the questions
Is in the top group
Listens with ease

Requires 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

Asks the questions
Is highly curious

Is mentally & physically involved

Has wild, silly ideas

Plays around, yet tests well Discusses in detail, elaborates

Goes beyond the group

Already knows

Requires 1-2 repetitions for mastery

Constructs abstractions

Prefers adults Draws inferences Initiates projects

Is intense

Create a new design Enjoys learning

Manipulates information

Is an inventor
Is a good guesser
Thrives on complexity
Is keenly observant
Is highly self-critical

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

Abigail Adams