Because gifted children are so diverse, not all exhibit all characteristics all of the time. However, there are common characteristics that many gifted individuals share:

* Unusual alertness, even in infancy
* Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly
* Excellent memory
* Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
* Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas
* Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles
* Often self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler
* Deep, intense feelings and reactions
* Highly sensitive
* Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful
* Idealism and sense of justice at early age
* Concern with social and political issues and injustices
* Longer attention span and intense concentration
* Preoccupied with own thoughts—daydreamer
* Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice
* Asks probing questions
* Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)
* Highly developed curiosity
* Interest in experimenting and doing things differently
* Puts idea or things together that are not typical
* Keen and/or unusual sense of humor
* Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas
* Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)

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