

Amend. "We would not expect a kid to have all these characteristics, but we would expect them to have more than one two. We always recommend assessment to try to figure out where the kid's strengths are and where the weaknesses are."

Sometimes, though, identifying giftedness is as simple as pairing observation with common

sense. "The little boy who called the flowers in his garden, 'bougainvillea,'" says Dr. Barbara Klein, an educational consultant in Los Angeles and author of *Raising Gifted Kids: Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Exceptional Child Thrive*. "You don't have to give the Stanford Binet [intelligence test] to know that they are just very different children. "Very

special." Taking note of these characteristics is only the first step for parents, who must also figure out how to cultivate the potential in their child.

"It's time to begin to look for more information," says the University of Connecticut's Dr. Robin Schader.

"If your child has these characteristics, then the big question at the end of it is: What are you going to do with it? As a parent, it behooves you to be watching your child, to know your child really well and to do your reading."

How To Tell If Your Child's Gifted



Planning

Gifted children organize their work and establish priorities among different assignments and responsibilities. They are often good at games, like chess, where it is necessary to anticipate an opponent's move. But Dr. Edward R. Amend warns: "There are some gifted kids who really stink at chess. But the thing I've noticed with these kids is that, in any game of strategy,

even if it's not particularly competitive, they'll figure out a way to think ahead and sort it out." That's why gifted children can be bored with tic tac toe--they know it often ends in an unexciting stalemate.

"Parents are a key, perhaps the key, in identifying gifted children,"
 -Dr. James T. Webb, co-author of *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*

Communication

A student, who found school exceedingly boring and tedious, once struck up an e-mail correspondence with Judy Galbraith, author of *You Know Your Child Is Gifted When ...* Later, she was shocked to learn that he was only 6 years old. "I guessed he was around 11 or 12 based on his vocabulary and articulation," she says. "Here is another example of a kid

who exemplified advanced communication skills and verbal acuity." Gifted students can explain things precisely and clearly, using descriptive language and lots of synonyms to add color and emotion to a story.

