## Gifted Preschoolers

### Characteristics

- Alertness in infancy
- Faster pace in reaching motor development milestones
- Early language development
  - Advanced vocabulary
  - Complex speech patterns
- Interest in the alphabet and symbols
- Intense curiosity
- Sustained attention
- Abstract thinker
- Creative/Imaginative
- Excellent memory
- May be an early reader
- Early empathy development
- Emotional intensity/sensitivity
- Concern with truth and fair play
- Mature sense of humor
- Perfectionism
- Leader in cooperative play

### Screening and Identification Procedures

- Assessments must be developmentally appropriate
- Define the purposes for assessment
- Use multiple measures over time
  - Observation
  - Portfolios
  - Informal testing
  - Formal testing
- Examine student portfolios for talent areas
- Interview parents, teachers, and students
- Keep in mind asynchronous development patterns

### Instructional Strategies

- Create balance between academic and play activities
- Involve children in decisions about what to learn
- Remember that social development is important ~ children need intellectual peers in addition to age peers
- Invite children to explore the world through drama, art, and movement
- Teach processes such as brainstorming and thinking aloud
- Build on prior knowledge and scaffold new experiences based on the child’s comments and current understandings
- Provide centers or learning spaces in the classroom and home
- Involve preschoolers in planning travel experiences and family outings

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