COMMON TRAITS IN YOUNG GIFTED CHILDREN

- **Early speech development**, uttered first words as early as 3-4 months of age but typically at 10 months; some gifted children are delayed in speech, but when they start talking their speech is typically advanced (one young boy said “french fries” as his first words)

- **Unusual alertness**; has the ability to watch an entire TV program at a very early age; may recognize a caregiver at a few months of age; smiles earlier than babies of the same age; young gifted children tend to be very observant

- Uses an **advanced vocabulary for his or her age**; while most children are understanding nouns or verbs, the young gifted child may be using adjectives and adverbs in language; when most children are saying “get out” a gifted child may say “release”

- Many young gifted children have **excellent memories**; they are able to recall facts, passages in books easily; they grasp new concepts quickly, sometimes without any help

- **Early mobility** in that young gifted children tend to walk, crawl and run much earlier (and faster) than agemates

- **Creative ability** apparent in art work or problem-solving; when asked to draw a picture of her family, one five year-old drew all members with great detail and also included the family pets with as much detail; several colors used

- Typically **interested in books** at a very early age; some may teach themselves to read

- Usually has **favorite TV shows/ movies/ CD’s** before the age of one; one two-year old gifted boy not only had favorite DVD’s, but knew how to operate the DVD player

- Many young gifted children **love puzzles** and are able to solve difficult puzzles at a very early age; most can solve puzzles with several pieces by age 3

- Young gifted children **tend to be curious**; they may take apart objects because they want to see how the object is built or put together; they may ask lots of questions about why or how things work

- Many young gifted children **understand mathematical facts early**, some knowing addition and subtraction before Kindergarten without any assistance

- Most young gifted children are interested in computers or other technology; this interest is not so much to play games as it is to understand how the computer works

- Several young gifted children have collections or a **wide variety of interests** because they love all new knowledge

- **Attention to detail** is not unusual for young gifted children; one young boy walked into a restaurant with hundreds of lights and immediately noted that there was a light out

- Many young gifted children **gravitate to older children as playmates**

- Most young gifted children have a **keen sense of humor**, often enjoying humor that appears to be above their age level or like to use humor that is a play on words