

Identifying a development lead

although you cannot speak on a scientific base of giftedness with young children, everybody has to acknowledge that giftedness not arises just at the school age, but does exist already in the early years. There are enough features that can signal a development lead.

Research has shown that young children with a development lead can adjust to a group norm within six weeks. Most of the young children with a development lead possess a certain degree of performance anxiety. This ultimately often leads to underachievement

Young children may be potentially gifted, but that intelligence must be developed and not slowed down.

Therefore, it is important early on to recognize a development lead on children and to offer the child challenges which it can develop.

To recognize early lead this development, it is important that educational staff and teachers are aware of the characteristics associated with a toddler with a development lead,

The sooner it signaled, the better.

How can kindergarten teachers better identify?

- Good transfer between nursery or playgroup.
- Parents in advance to fill in a questionnaire.
- Good enough test during first interview.
- On the basis of an observation list, the teacher is observing the child's first six weeks.

The goal is to identify children with development leads. This is to avoid, underachievement, demotivation and anxiety. So the teacher can adapt education.



Features children with a development lead

- Previous to reading and math
- Has a broad interest.
- Has a strong memory
- Speaks well, uses difficult words
- Makes great mental steps.
- Can logical reasoning.
- Quick understanding
- Sees more details
- Asks more
- Hates repetition
- Has boundless energy
- Demonstrate creative play.
- Task-oriented

The questions I use to identify a development lead are:

1. I always start with a person drawing. I give this assignment at the first day, but rather at the day I have de interview with the parents, before the child starts at school.

The question I ask the child:

I want you to make a picture of a person. Make the very best picture that you can. Take your time and work very carefully. Try very hard and see what a good picture you can make."

Never ask the child tot draw himself!



Questions I ask the parents during the first interview

2. Does your child needs less sleep then other children of his age?
3. How is the language development of your child? What kind of words does your child use? Is this different then other childer of his age?
4. Does your child has a development lead on one or more areas?

Some of the questions I use for observation during the first six weeks

5. Does the child has a smooth speech development?
 - Rich vocabulary
 - Proper syntax
 - excellent verbal expression ability
6. Does the child knows a lot and does it want to know more and does it asks a lot of questions?
7. Does the child has a excellent memory?
8. Does the child understand things quickly?
9. Does the child has early mastery of symbol systems in reading and math?
10. Does the child has has a high degree of autonomy?



Observation list children with a development lead

Observatielijst Kleuters met een ontwikkelingsvoorsprong

Taalvaardigheid:

- Heeft een groot begrip van de taal en past taal goed en gevarieerd toe. 0 - Kan taal erg letterlijk nemen. 0
- Vraagt veel en vraagt door. 0

Sociaal/emotioneel:

- Heeft een groot invoelend vermogen. Kan zich sterk inleven in een situatie en kan die situatie ook generaliseren. 0

Heeft een sterk aanpassingsvermogen:

aan ouders. 0

aan leeftijdsgenoten. 0

aan de situatie. 0

- Toont faalangstig gedrag. 0
- Heeft een teruggetrokken houding en acteert liever op de 'achtergrond'. 0 - Is perfectionistisch. 0
- Denkt na over levensbeschouwelijke zaken, zoals de dood en de zin van het leven. 0

Cognitieve vaardigheden:

- Is, meer dan het gemiddelde kind, geïnteresseerd in cijfers en letters. 0
- Heeft een geweldige honger naar kennis en belangstelling voor niet kinderlijke onderwerpen. 0
- Het spel is fantasierijk en creatief. 0
- Beschikt over een sterk geheugen. 0
- Let op detail en gehelen in de omgeving. 0
- Kan logisch redeneren. 0
- Begrijpt snel wat de bedoeling is. 0
- Komt terug op eerder gegeven informatie. 0
- Laat zien te beschikken over ruimtelijk inzicht. 0
- Kan een puzzel van 64 stukjes vlot leggen. 0
- Tekent in perspectief. 0

Taakgerichtheid:

- Laat een grote mate van taakgerichtheid en concentratie zien, vooral bij zelfgekozen taken. 0
- Kan zelfstandig opdrachten doen. 0
- Heeft een hekel aan herhaling 0
- Kan intens met dingen bezig zijn, met tomeloze energie. 0

Motoriek:

- Heeft een goede grove motoriek. 0
- Heeft een goede fijne motoriek. 0

