Why is My Gifted Student Struggling?
Teaching the Gifted and Twice Exceptional (2E) Student
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Surprising Characteristics of Giftedness:
◦ Atypical brains and brain functioning
◦ Asynchronous development
◦ Highly capable in 1 or 2 subject areas
◦ Think divergently/rapidly, not linearly
◦ More likely to suffer from depression and anxiety

Teaching Challenges:
◦ Overexcitabilities (OE’s): psychomotor, sensory, intellectual,imaginational, and emotional
◦ Dislike drills/rote learning
◦ Curious, argumentative
◦ Gap between judgment and intellect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bright Child</th>
<th>Gifted Child</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enjoys school</td>
<td>Enjoys self-directed learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works hard to achieve</td>
<td>Knows without working hard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knows the answer</td>
<td>Asks the questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interested and attentive</td>
<td>Highly curious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivated by grades</td>
<td>Not always high achievers; not always motivated by grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performs at top of the group</td>
<td>Performs beyond the group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Strategies for Gifted Students
◦ Teacher as facilitator
◦ Perfectionism: Growth mindset
◦ Anxiety
  ◦ Breathing
  ◦ Imagery
  ◦ Switch activities: “Interleaving” practice
  ◦ “Brain breaks”

Expanded Curriculum
◦ Interest-based repertoire
◦ Individual research
◦ Learning contracts

ADHD: A Common Misdiagnosis
◦ SENG: Social Emotional Needs of the Gifted
◦ Differences:
  ◦ ADHD: Problems appear both at school and at home.
  ◦ Gifted: Can stay on task when challenged and interested.
“Twice Exceptional” (2E) Students: Gifted students with a disability such as ADHD (31%), Autism (17%), Sensory processing disorder (18%), Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) (13%), Dyslexia, or a visual/physical/hearing impairment.

Strategies for Gifted, ADHD, and 2E Students
- Behavior contract
- Use many modalities
- Limit instructions
- Match strengths while addressing weaknesses

Gifted Students with ADHD
- Environment
- Plan
- ADHD benefits: Creativity, hyperfocus, and drive

Don’t Rely on Stereotypes!

Resources: