

Twice-Exceptionalities

Among the gifted population, there are individuals who exhibit exceptional strengths in some areas while seemingly failing to excel in other areas. These individuals may fall into a category known as twice-exceptional. Exceptionalities can occur at both ends of the spectrum.



Sources

Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom By Susan Winebrenner

Tips for Parents: Meeting the Needs of Twice Exceptional Children.

[Http://www.gt-cybersource.org/ArticlePrintable.aspx?rid=11330](http://www.gt-cybersource.org/ArticlePrintable.aspx?rid=11330)



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The Twice
Exceptional Child

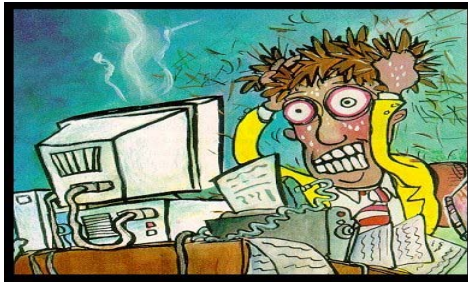
Gifted Students with Other Exceptionalities



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What Does It Mean To Be Twice Exceptional?

When giftedness coexists with a learning challenge such as Attention Deficit Disorder, a learning disability, behavioral problems, or Asperger's Syndrome, the student may be twice exceptional. Anywhere from 10 to 30 percent of gifted students may have a learning disability. These students may not be recognized for their gifts and may have negative school experiences. Failure to understand these students by school personal, peers, and self may cause emotional and academic problems for these students. This brochure will identify some signs of twice exceptionalities along with advice for parents.



Twice exceptional students often feel frustrated.

If You Think Your Child May Be Twice Exceptional, These Are Some Signs To Look For:

- Discrepancies of 12 points or more between verbal and nonverbal subtest
- Large vocabulary, but deficient in word meaning
- Excels at abstract reasoning, but unable to remember details
- Lack of effective organization and study skills
- Express themselves verbally, but unable to write down ideas
- Bright and motivated outside of school, but struggle with traditional school tasks
- May be inflexible, super-sensitive to criticism, stubborn, unable to take risk, or helpless
- May read at a significantly low grade level, but have a large storehouse of information on some topics
- May have slow reaction speed resulting in incomplete work and low test scores on timed test
- May have vision problems related to scotopic sensitivity that interferes with their reading ability



Advice

for

Parents of Twice Exceptional Students

1. Trust your instincts and your child.

You know your child better than anyone else in the world. If he says he can't do something, don't assume that he's being lazy or obstinate or unmotivated, and don't believe anyone who says that is all that's going on.

2. Don't ignore the giftedness or the disability.

Children get depressed when they don't get to learn anything new; however, children get frustrated/depressed if they are constantly required to do things they can't do.

3. Your child can both be in a gifted program and have an IEP or 504 plan.

Children in gifted programs can have IEPs or 504 plans. Children with IEPs or 504 plans can be in gifted programs. They are not mutually exclusive.

4. Don't overwork your child.

If homework takes her four times as long as it takes the other kids, have her do 1/4 of the homework.

5. Network.

Local support groups can be great. In addition, the Internet has opened a whole new world, allowing us to connect to people at any hour of day or night. Support and information are both invaluable.

6. See the good in your child and find time to have fun together.

When things are falling apart, it is easy to lose sight of what we enjoy about our children and not find time for the good.