

Strategies for Teaching Gifted and Talented Students

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- Create alternative activities that go beyond the regular curriculum.
- Work with students to design an independent project that they would be interested in completing for credit.
- If possible, involve students in academic competitions in your area.
- Create tiered assignments, which have different expectations for different levels of learners.

Features of Effective Classroom Practice

- Higher order thinking skills
- Development of expertise
- Exploration of alternative views
- Questioning that encourages creativity
- Problem solving and enquiry
- Connection of learning: the big picture
- Independent learning

Planning Lesson Objectives for Gifted Learners

- Add breadth: enrichment through a broader range of texts and tasks
- Give depth: extension through more detail and complexity
- Accelerate the pace of learning: tackling objectives earlier
- Promote independence
- Support reflection and self-evaluation

Structuring Challenging Tasks

- Use an alternative text or stimulus
- Allow pupils to jump steps
- Create open ended tasks that enable unusual responses
- Set extended, independent projects
- Encourage research and experiment
- Restrict time or word limit
- Bloom's Taxonomy: higher order skills

More Challenge not More Work! AVOID THIS...

- Repetitive extension work
- Time filling activities
- Additional writing
- Helping others when task completed
- Starting points that provide no challenge

What is Good Teaching?

- Effective planning
- Differentiated teaching strategies
- Command of subject
- A good learning environment
- Challenge and pace
- Use of teaching assistants
- Constructive assessment of work

What is Good Learning? Consider:

- Pupils' acquisition of knowledge and skill
- Pupils' engagement and application
- Pupils' concentration and productivity
- Independent and collaborative work
- Reflection on learning
- Self assessment and target setting

Technology and Gifted and Talented Students

- Computers allow students to move at their own pace.
- Computers can be used to complete alternative activities and independent projects.
- Many computer programs can be used to help students learn and master new material not covered in the regular classroom.

Differentiation by Task- practical suggestions

- If taking feedback in lesson enlist an able student to write ideas up on the board.
- Ask able pupils to model their writing/thinking by explaining their answer/solution to a task to a neighbor.
- Provide dictionaries and ask G&T pupils to look up and explain definitions of key words or technical vocabulary used throughout the lesson.

Differentiation by Task - practical suggestions

- Ask G&T pupils to come up with questions to ask during the plenary to test the other students' understanding.
- Use higher level questioning and direct questions at particular pupils rather than waiting for the hands up approach.

Differentiation by resource- practical suggestions

- Use unedited or full length versions of abridged texts you are using with the rest of the class.
- Ask the school librarian to produce a reading list of texts and electronic resources to encourage wider reading or research around a class topic.
- Use a wide variety of texts and resources.

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Books for More Information

- *Guiding the Gifted Child: A Practical Source for Parents and Teachers* (James T. Webb, Elizabeth A. Meckstroth, Stephanie S. Tolan)
- *Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family* (Karen L. J. Isaacson)
- *Smart Girls: A New Psychology of Girls, Women and Giftedness* (Barbara Kerr)
- *Re-forming Gifted Children: Matching the Program to the Child* (Karen B. Rogers)

Web Sites

- [Institute for Educational Advancement](http://www.nfgcc.org/)

<http://www.nfgcc.org/>

- [National Foundation for Gifted and Creative Children](http://www.nagc.org/)

<http://www.nagc.org/>

- [National Association for Gifted Children](http://www.nagc.org/)

