

Essential Starting Points

“Giftedness is asynchronous development in which advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity combine to create inner experiences and awareness that are qualitatively different from the norm. This asynchrony increases with higher intellectual capacity. The uniqueness of the gifted renders them particularly vulnerable and requires modifications in parenting, teaching and counseling in order for them to develop optimally.” (The Columbus Group, 1991)

Key Terms

Asynchrony – uneven development in various academic subjects and/or across social and emotional norms

Overexcitabilities (OEs) – “super stimulatibilities” (Dabrowski, 1960)

Extreme sensitivity in one or more areas:

- **Psychomotor** – fidgety, energetic, physical energy, movement, fast talking, gestures
- **Sensual** – tactile (tags in shirts), loud noise, smells, bright light, picky eaters
- **Imaginational** – daydreamer, humor, mix fact & fantasy, may cause fears/anxieties
- **Intellectual** – curiosity, problem solving, drive to know, endless questions
- **Emotional** – empathetic, intensity of emotions, tantrums, compassionate

Twice Exceptional (2e) – gifted and a disability at the same time. Could be dyslexia, dysgraphia, vision processing, auditory processing, ADHD, Asperger’s/Autism, mood disorders, many more...

Intensity, Sensitivity, Perfectionism – most common characteristics identified by SENGifted.org
Perfectionism can be a driving force to achievement or underachievement. Procrastination, impatience with self/others, difficulty making decisions, trouble accepting compliments or criticism, dwells on mistakes, unwilling to start, afraid to try, reaches for impossible goals.

School Program Models – gifted magnet school, full-time gifted classroom, pull-out, gifted resource teacher, cluster grouping, TOSA (teacher on special assignment), homeschool, part-time homeschooling, unschooling, gifted micro-school, private school, ...

Curiosity, Creativity, Social Justice, Existential Depression, Executive Function, Idealism, Underachievement, Imposter Syndrome, Grit, Growth Mindset, Introversio vs. Extroversio, Misdiagnosis, Emotional Intelligence, Acceleration, Intelligence Quotient (IQ)

Websites:

<http://www.nwgca.org>, <http://nagc.org>
<http://www.hoagiesgifted.com>
<http://www.waetag.net>
<http://www.sengifted.org>

Books:

A Parent’s Guide to Gifted Children
(Webb, Gore, Amend, DeVries)
Genius Denied (Davidson)
Misdiagnosis & Dual Diagnosis
(Amend, Webb, et al)

