

Approaches to Teaching the Gifted and Talented

Open Ended Investigations

Research indicates that gifted students tend to do better and feel more challenged with open ended investigations. A good open ended investigation doesn't have a correct answer but could have a variety of good answers based on the possibility of changing variables. This might include reading a book and then re-writing the ending, or building a bridge that can hold a certain amount of weight.

Across the Curriculum

Another way in which gifted students tend to learn well is by integrating a variety of academic disciplines into one study or project. Most gifted students are able to synthesize information and then analyze it relatively well. A great example may be to look at a particular scientific [invention](#) and then explore how its affect rippled to include the arts, and sciences.

Breadth

Because gifted students are often capable of memorizing vast amounts of information, some educators posit that it's better to feed gifted and talented students a wealth of knowledge. An example might be having a student compete on a knowledge bowl or in an academic decathlon.

Depth

Another way to approach the education of the gifted and talented is to study things in depth. Gifted students often are able to understand cause and effect relationships much better than their peers. They are able to consider a variety of variables and even look at the situation from several different view points. A great example of an in depth project is to look at a particular period of [history](#) and study all of the people, places and events that define that period.

Ideas for Classroom Activities for Multiple Intelligences

You can learn which type of intelligence a child has by [testing](#), and then design classroom activities for multiple intelligences that play to each child's strength. Using [multiple intelligence stations](#), or breaking children up into smaller groups according to their intelligence strengths, can help assure that each child is participating in activities that will help him learn.

Verbal/Linguistic Activities

Students with high verbal/linguistic intelligence are often well-spoken, and they write well. The following classroom activities favor this type of intelligence:

- Storytelling and narration
- Writing stories
- Create a television or radio newscast
- Create a newspaper
- Have a debate
- Play vocabulary games
- Create advertising materials for a made up business

Math/Logical Activities

Students who have math/logical intelligence are logical thinkers who enjoy solving puzzles. Classroom activities that work well with this type of intelligence include the following:

- Solving mysteries using deductive reasoning
- Predicting outcomes based on circumstances
- Solving number or logic puzzles
- Doing financial planning for an imaginary business

Spatial Activities

Students with high spatial intelligence often think in pictures. They do well with art activities and spatial puzzles. Classroom activities to highlight spatial intelligence include the following:

- Art activities such as painting and play dough
- Working with play money
- Map reading and map making

- Play a Pictionary-style game
- Diagram sentences

Musical Activities

Children with high musical intelligence learn well through rhythm. They often enjoy musical activities. Classroom activities for musical intelligence include the following:

- Write and recite poetry
- Perform dance routines to act out historical or literary events
- Create songs or raps about math concepts
- Perform sound and vibration experiments in science

Kinesthetic Activities

Kinesthetic learners love motion. They are often very physical children and sometimes gifted athletes. Activities for kinesthetic learners include the following:

- Dramatic re-enactments of historical or literary events
- Using different body parts to measure objects
- Use charades to act out parts of speech
- Learn folk dances that represent different cultures
- Design and build an architectural model out of materials like Popsicle sticks or toothpicks

Intrapersonal Activities

Interpersonal learners are those children who work well cooperatively and thrive on building friendships and relationships. Activities to teach interpersonal learners include the following:

- Working in small groups on a project
- Mentoring or teaching concepts to another student
- Conducting interviews
- Role playing historical or literary situations
- Team building exercises

Intrapersonal Activities

Intrapersonal learners are those who are very aware of their own motivations. They often have a high level of self-awareness and emotional intelligence. Intrapersonal classroom activities include the following:

- Keeping a journal
- Writing an autobiography
- Working independently
- Writing essays about which historical or literary figures they would want to be
- Rewrite a story from their point of view
- Share how they'd be different if they were from another culture

Naturalist Activities

Naturalists are nature lovers who often have an excellent understanding of, or interest in earth sciences. Activities for naturalist learners include the following:

- Categorizing species in the natural world
- Collecting items from nature
- Going on nature walks
- Orienteering
- Math story problems featuring plants or animals
- Cultivating plants or caring for small animals

Outside Resources

Center for Gifted Education, College of William and Mary

Center for Talented Youth, John Hopkins University

Connecting Young Thinkers Around the World, John Hopkins University

Council for Exceptional Children

Davidson Institute for Talent Development

National Association for Gifted Children

National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools in Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted

Virginia Association for the Gifted

World Council for Gifted Children

www.exquisite-minds.com

www.connections-nc.com/curriculum

<http://daretodifferentiate.wikispaces.com/file/view/Extension+Menu>

www.educationworld.com