

Differentiation for Gifted Learners

Content

- Provide more challenging reading materials
- Focus on the overall trends, patterns and themes rather than small details and facts
- Study problems that do not have a clear solution
- Use topics of interest to the student, relevant to how the world works, complex and worthwhile

Process

- Allow for flexible groupings: individual, pairs, small groups
- Create specialized learning centers for skill work
- Encourage creativity and reward risk-taking
- Provide opportunities for divergent (many answers) and convergent (best answer) thinking
- Explicitly teach skills needed to learn independently (research, organization, etc.)

Product

- Allow a variety of acceptable products (using Multiple Intelligences, for example)
- Offer leveled projects (For an A., For a B..., etc.)
- Involve the student in creating the scoring guide
- Assign tasks that are authentic and for a real audience
- Match the product to the outcomes being met

Learning Environ.

- **Physical space:** Can the student move freely within the room? Who has control over materials?
- **Conditions:** Are humor and creativity appreciated? Is the atmosphere welcoming? Is discovery encouraged?
- **Teacher:** Is the teacher committed to differentiation? Curious and enthusiastic? Willing to relinquish control of the learning?
- **Groupings:** Do gifted students have opportunities to work with others like them - even across grades?

Learning Environ.

- Arrange for a mentor to work with the student in interest area
- Cluster group gifted/talented students by areas of strength in the classroom
- Allow independent use of library

Adaptations for Gifted Learners

Presentation

- Vary the method of presentation: lecture, small groups, large group, demonstration, individual experimentation
- Avoid having student copy notes when material is already mastered

Curriculum

- Provide opportunities for open-ended, self-directed activities
- Provide instruction in research skills needed to conduct an independent study in student's interest area
- Provide independent learning opportunities
- Use advanced supplementary/reading materials
- Encourage the use of creativity Ask higher level questions
- Provide opportunities to develop depth and breadth of knowledge in a subject area

Behavior

- Use a Study Contract for student to achieve outcomes
- Use a Learning Log for independent or outside learning
- Establish a timeline for long-range projects

Motivation

- Provide fewer drill and practice activities when material is learned
- Give student choices of activities in learning the content
- Allow the student to 'buy' time for self-directed activities after material is learned

Assessment

- Give a pretest to allow the student to demonstrate mastery
- Provide self-checking materials
- Provide tests at a higher level of thinking

Enrichment Strategies for Gifted Learners

Enrichment = working on something more in DEPTH while still keeping pace with classmates but has time to explore topics of interest.

