

Why is My Gifted Student Struggling?

Teaching the Gifted and Twice Exceptional (2E) Student

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Surprising Characteristics of Giftedness:

- Atypical brains and brain functioning
- Asynchronous development
- Highly capable in 1 or 2 subject areas
- Think divergently/rapidly, not linearly
- More likely to suffer from depression and anxiety

Teaching Challenges:

- Overexcitabilities (OE's): sychomotor, sensory, intellectual, imaginal, and emotional
- Dislike drills/rote learning
- Curious, argumentative
- Gap between judgment and intellect

Bright Child	Gifted Child
Enjoys school	Enjoys self-directed learning
Works hard to achieve	Knows without working hard
Knows the answer	Asks the questions
Interested and attentive	Highly curious
Motivated by grades	Not always high achievers; not always motivated by grades
Performs at top of the group	Performs beyond the group

Strategies for Gifted Students

- Teacher as facilitator
- Perfectionism: Growth mindset
- Anxiety
 - Breathing
 - Imagery
 - Switch activities: “Interleaving” practice
 - “Brain breaks”

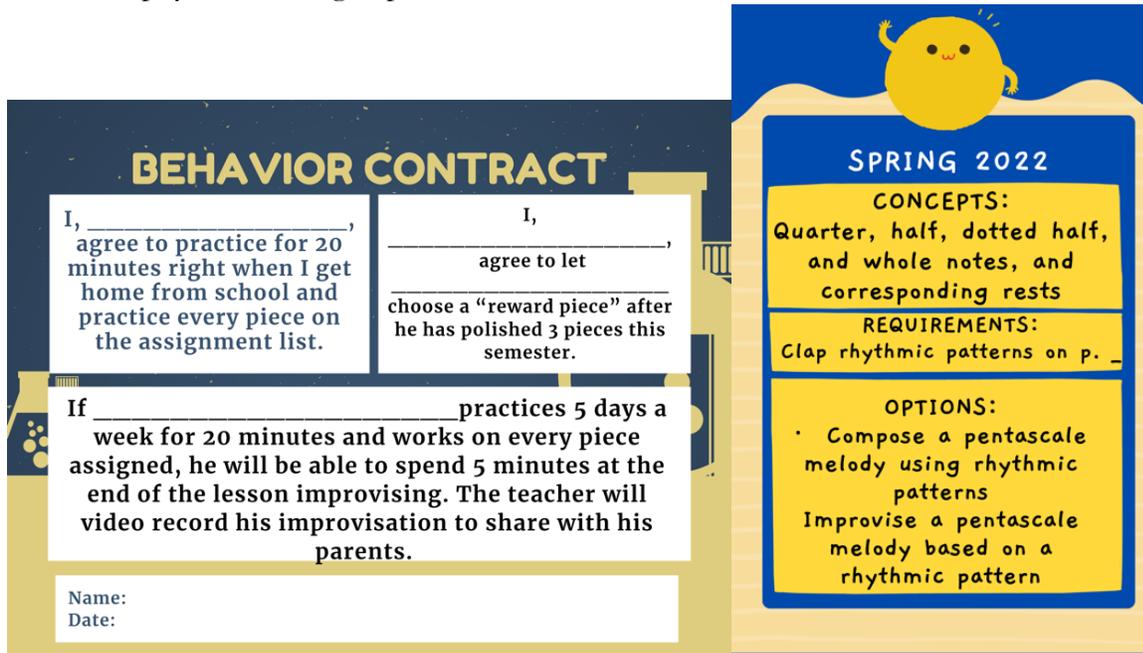
Expanded Curriculum

- Interest-based repertoire
- Individual research
- Learning contracts

ADHD: A Common Misdiagnosis

- SENG: Social Emotional Needs of the Gifted
- Differences:
 - ADHD: Problems appear both at school and at home.
 - Gifted: Can stay on task when challenged and interested.

“Twice Exceptional” (2E) Students: Gifted students with a disability such as ADHD (31%), Autism (17%), Sensory processing disorder (18%) , Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) (13%), Dyslexia, or a visual/physical/hearing impairment.



Strategies for Gifted, ADHD, and 2E Students

- Behavior contract
- Use many modalities
- Limit instructions
- Match strengths while addressing weaknesses

Gifted Students with ADHD

- Environment
- Plan
- ADHD benefits: Creativity, hyperfocus, and drive

Don't Rely on Stereotypes!

Resources:

- Dweck, Carol. *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2016.
- Haroutounian, Joanne. *Kindling the Spark: Recognizing and Developing Musical Talent*. New York: Oxford, 2002.
- Strip, Carol A. with Gretchen Hirsch. *Helping Gifted Children Soar: A Practical Guide for Parents and Teachers*. Scottsdale, AZ: Great Potential Press, 2000.
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