

Handouts From Rich Weinfeld's Program On "Twice Exceptional Learners" Held On October 29, 2008 in Fairfax, Virginia

Twice Exceptional learners

“‘Fairness’ is not equal, identical treatment; rather ‘fairness’ means that every student receives what he/she needs.”

Richard Lavoie

Who are they? A student, in grades K through 12, who demonstrates high performance ability or academic potential **and** also has a cognitive, physical, behavioral, or emotional disability that requires accommodations in order for their potential to be realized.

The Challenge...

“The greatest challenge in serving students who are twice exceptional are the perceptions of most educators that giftedness and special needs are distinct, separate conditions.” **Marty Hougen, Ph.D.**

The University of Texas at Austin

Who Are the Gifted?

Creative and imaginative people are often not recognized by their contemporaries. In fact, often they are not recognized in school by their teachers either. History is full of illustrations; ***Einstein, Isaac Newton, Beethoven, Thomas Edison, F.W. Woolworth, Walt Disney, Caruso, Madam Schumann-Heink, Leo Tolstoy, Werner von Braun, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Louis Pasteur, Abraham Lincoln, Louis May Alcott***

Profile of Twice-Exceptional Learners

- Possess high level of general intellectual ability
- May have uneven academic patterns of strength
- Interested in broad-based thematic topics
- May be less successful when confronted with input from multiple sources or with tasks that require the integration of multiple skills
- Often display exceptional creativity or problem-solving ability in area(s) of interest
- May have written language difficulties including poor handwriting, poor mechanics, and difficulty with organization of content
- May have sophisticated sense of humor
- May need more time to process language and respond
- May be highly sensitive especially in areas of human need
- Often have difficulty in organizing time and materials
- Possess high readiness to learn and great interest in learning topics when presented in a challenging manner
- May exhibit visual or auditory deficits

Researchers Neilson, Hammond, and Higgins, point out that a twice-exceptional student requires gifted instruction, while at the same time needing “the special instruction, adaptations, and accommodations provided to students with special needs.”

SOURCE: Excerpts from the “Twice Exceptional” link, FCPS GT Webpage.

<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/pdfs/Regional%20Parent%20Meetings/Twice%20exceptional%20Parent.pdf>

GTLD HELP: Resources for Providing Support to Students Who Are Gifted but Also Learning Disabled

Books:

- **To be gifted and learning disabled: From identification to practical intervention strategies** by Baum, S., Owen, S. V., & Dixon, J. (1991). Mansfield Center, CT: Creative Learning Press.
- **Uniquely Gifted: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of the Twice-Exceptional Student**, edited by Kiesa Kay. *an excellent resource. This book contains chapters from parents, teachers, researchers and administrators.*
- **Crossover Children: A Sourcebook for Helping Children Who Are Gifted and Learning Disabled**, by Marlene Bireley.
- **The Explosive Child: A New Approach for Understanding and Parenting Easily Frustrated, "Chronically Inflexible" Children** by Ross Greene. Badly titled, but excellent book.
- **Learning Outside the Lines: Two Ivy League Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD Give You the Tools for Academic Success and Educational Revolution**, by Jonathan Mooney & David Cole. *This wonderful book is by two recent graduates of Brown University, both of whom struggled through school (one dropping out for years) – both clearly gifted/special needs. They are also the founders of a program linking special needs college students with grade school students, as mentors. Aimed at students, it is a must-read for parents and teachers as well.*
- ***The Myth of Laziness** by Mel Levine.
- **A Mind at a Time** by Mel Levine
- **To be Gifted & Learning Disabled: From Identification to Practical Intervention Strategies**, by Susan M. Baum, Steve V. Owen, John Dixon.
- **The visual-spatial learner. Preventing School Failure**, by Silverman, L. (Fall, 1989). **34 (1), 15-20.**
- **Giftedness, conflict and underachievement**, by Whitmore, J. F. (1980). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- **The video, "How Difficult Can This Be?: The F.A.T. City Workshop"** by Rick Lavoie. *The description from the website says it all: "For kids with learning disabilities, the classroom can be an intimidating place. In this workshop, Richard Lavoie shows why. He leads a group of parents, educators, psychologists, and children through a series of exercises that cause Frustration, Anxiety, and Tension...feelings all too familiar*

to children with learning disabilities. By dramatizing the classroom experience so vividly, Lavoie lets us see the world through the eyes of a child. At the end of the workshop, participants discuss strategies for working more effectively with learning disabled children."

WEB Sites:

- **All Kinds of Minds:** The institute's mission is to help students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise. All Kinds of Minds is a 501(c) 3-compliant, non-profit, charitable institute.
<http://www.allkindsofminds.org/index.aspx>
- **LD OnLine** offers hundreds of expert-reviewed articles and resources for educators, parents, and others concerned about children and adults with learning disabilities and ADHD. Click below to find the information you seek, organized by topic.
http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/special_education/cec_p_behavior.html
- **Hoagies' Gifted: Twice Exceptional:** Twice Exceptional Books
www.hoagiesgifted.org/twice_exceptional.htm
- **CEC | Twice Exceptional** Twice Exceptional. Gifted students with disabling conditions remain a major group of underserved and understimulated youth (Cline, 1999). The focus on accommodations for their ...
www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Twice_Exceptional&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPage...
- **Uniquely Gifted - Resources for Gifted/Special Needs Children** In addition to being special needs educational advisor for families with twice-exceptional children and Contributing Editor to the new publication 2e: www.uniquelygifted.org
- **NAGC - Twice Exceptional Main_ Twice-Exceptional** (Gifted with Special Needs) Gifted children, with their high potential and abilities, may also have learning problems that act as a roadblock for the development
www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=973