

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL ISSUES

Asynchronous Development:

Gifted students may at times feel that they do not quite fit in with their peers because of their academic development or maturity. They may want to talk about ideas that are intellectually above the interests of their peers. In addition, these students may be teased into thinking being smart is not a good thing.

Introversion/extroversion:

In the general population, about 75% of people are extroverts (gaining energy from being with people) and about 25% are introverts (gaining energy from being alone). In the gifted population, the percentages are reversed. At times, gifted students may resent being made to do things in groups or think there must be something wrong with them because they prefer to be alone rather than participate in groups.

Perfectionism:

Perfectionism exists on a continuum from healthy perfectionism which leads to excellence and achievement to unhealthy perfectionism which can paralyze students into procrastination or unwillingness to take healthy risks. Gifted students may find that they put off starting projects or do not turn in homework because they believe their homework could be better. As a result, perfectionism can cause stress.

Underachievement:

Underachievement has many causes. One of the causes may be perfectionism. Other causes include the need for gifted students to feel the same as others as they do not want to feel different than their peers. As a result, sometimes students purposefully sabotage their grades.

Overexcite-abilities:

A theorist named Dabrowski discovered gifted students often have heightened sensibilities in the areas of the sense of touch, appreciation of beauty, empathy for the suffering of others, emotional intensity, imagination, and intellectual curiosity.

Multi-potentiality:

Some students are able enough to do anything they want to well; however, this often makes deciding on a career difficult.

Relationships with peers:

Most gifted students relate well with their age peers, but occasionally are teased by peers.

Pressure to Succeed:

Often gifted students feel pressure to do well in school. This pressure is often given by the student, parents, administrators, teachers, and peers.