

Factsheet 78

Twice Exceptionality

Some children may have a learning disability alongside their giftedness, which adds another dimension, difficulty and frustration to the issues. Remember not to let the disability get in the way of the high ability of any child. Most learning difficulties do not interfere with intellect.

Some common disabilities we see alongside high ability:

- Autism/Autistic Savant
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Sensory Integration Dysfunction
- Aspergers Syndrome
- ADD/ADHD
- Dysgraphia
- Auditory & Visual Processing Disorders
- Non Verbal Learning Disorder

Identifying: To identify twice exceptional students, it is important to have evidence of both the specific learning difficulty and the potential for giftedness; to assess any discrepancies between intellectual ability and performance, if any, across the curriculum.

A multi dimensional approach to assessment involves teachers consulting across the curriculum, looking at discrepancies across the curriculum, subject areas and between performances required for different skills. The results of a standardised reading test and a listening test might show huge varied ability – a score on the 90th percentile for listening and 60th percentile for reading would suggest difficulty in interpreting print. Assessments in art, music, drama and physical education might rate considerably higher in some cases than reading, writing and spelling ages and vice versa.

When assessing all of the following should be looked at and considered:

- Schoolwork
- Work from home
- Drawings and paintings
- Parent's comments & assessment
- Teacher observations
- Advanced reading and/or number ability
- Written work and handwriting skills
- Advanced in use of equipment
- Use of language and communications skills
- Processing of information
- Higher level thinking skills
- Hypersensitivity and over-excitability
- Reports from G&T Co-ordinator/SENCo
- Reports from the Class Teacher, Key Worker and/or Head Teacher
- Reports from other professionals
- Insatiable appetite for knowledge
- Asking difficult questions beyond chronological age
- Use of puzzles beyond chronological age

Websites

- www.nas.org.uk National Autistic Society
- www.adhd.org.uk Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- www.addiss.co.uk Attention Deficit Disorder
- www.bdadyslexia.org.uk British Dyslexia Association
- www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk Dyspraxia Foundation
- www.apd.org.uk Auditory Processing Disorders
- www.inpp.co.uk Institute for Neuro-Physiological Psychology

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www.maximumpotential.info Sensory Integration

www.2eNewsletter.com Newsletter for parents and educators of Twice Exceptional pupils/students