Addressing Needs of Gifted, Talented and Creative Learners
Who are exceptional children?
Why do they have special needs?
How can students with special needs best be served in schools?
What is meant by a *gifted or talented child*?
Who is a *creative child*?
What are the means by which we can respond to the needs of these children?
Why do teachers need to be aware of and responsive to their needs?
Exceptional children are those who require special education and related services if they are to realize their full human potential. They require special education because they are markedly different from most children in one or the other way.
They may have:

- Mental Retardation,
- Learning Disabilities,
- Emotional Or Behavioral Disorders,
- Physical Disabilities,
- Disorders Of Communication,
- Impaired Hearing/ Impaired Sight,
- Special Gifts , Talents or Creativeness.
What do we mean by *Gifted & Talented* child?
Definition of Gifted Students

Acc. to Havighurt, “The talented or gifted child is one who shows constantly remarkable performance or outstanding behaviour in any worthwhile endeavour.”
Acc. to Terman & Witty, “The gifted children are superior in physical development, educational achievement, intelligence and social personality.” These students:

• have extraordinary talents and skills,
• are very bright and talented.
Students who are gifted may have achievement/potential in any of the following areas:

✓ Intellectual ability
✓ Creative or productive thinking
✓ Leadership ability
✓ Visual or performing arts
✓ Athletic Ability
Giftedness

Giftedness is the possession and use of natural (non-systematically trained) abilities (called high aptitudes or gifts) in at least one ability domain, to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers.

Talent

Talent is the superior mastery of systematically developed abilities (or skills) and knowledge in at least one field of human activity, to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 10% of age peers who are (or...
The Intelligence Quotient in Gifted / Talented child

- Average human IQ is **100**
- The average IQ of a college graduate is **120**
- A student who is **gifted** has an IQ of **above 120**
- A student with an **IQ of above 140** is considered exceptionally gifted (a.k.a Genius)
BROAD CLASSIFICATION OF CHARACTERISTICS

- Physical Characteristics
- Intellectual Characteristics
- Personality Characteristics
- Emotional Characteristics
- Academic Characteristics
- Social Characteristics
Characteristics of Giftedness

- Reasons well
- Excellent memory
- Compassionate
- Morally sensitive
- High degree of energy
- Great sense of humor
- High degree of energy
- Learns rapidly
- Long attention span
- Perfectionist
- Strongly curious
- Mature judgment
- Extensive vocabulary
- Sensitive
- Intense
- Perseveres in interests
- Wide range of interests
- Concerned with justice
- Vivid imagination
- Avid reader
- Keen observer
- Tends to question authority
Identification of Gifted & Talented children can be done through

Test Methods of Identification

1. Intelligence Tests
2. Ability Tests
3. Achievement Tests
4. Mental Tests
5. Aptitude Tests etc.
As Gifted children possess different mental, social & emotional characteristics--------- it is thus essential to have a well thought programme for them to channelize their energy in fruitful direction/way
Methods which can be adopted in schools

- **Enrichment of curriculum** - Giving different options to accommodate their need for acceleration of content, greater depth and difficulty of instruction

- **Rapid Promotion**

- **Special home assignments to utilize their talent**

- **Good library facilities**

- **Single Subject Acceleration**
Role of the Teacher

- Classify the child in the group in which they are happy & comfortable
- Guide the student
- Encourage the child
- Be flexible and open-minded
- Be open for assistance when needed by him/her
- Let the child get excited about their interests
Role of Home

- Identify the child
- Provide him/her adequate facilities at home
- Parents should guard the child
- Parents should encourage discussions with the child about his interests
- Creative work of the child should be encouraged
Who are Creative Children?

Creative persons do not do different things BUT they do things differently
What being creative means?

- Being imaginative – ability to think generatively
- Being original / inventive
- Being able to adapt and improvise
- Being curious having an enquiring disposition
- Being resourceful
- Being able to communicate in ways that help people comprehend and if necessary, see things differently
What being creative means?

Creativity means- seeing or expressing new relationship among things or ideas

Acc. to Barron- Creativity is the ability to bring something new into existence.

Acc. to Stagner & Karwoski- Creativity implies the production of a totally or partially novel identity.
Characteristics of a Creative Child

- Originality of ideas and activities
- Good memory & field knowledge
- Abundance of smartness, awakening, attention & concentration
- Independent in thinking
- Courageous
- High degree of beauty sense & adaptability
- Has a vision for future problems
- Resourceful child
- Imagination & world of dreams is very strange & great
Educational Provisions for a Creative Child

- Freedom should be given to the child
- Originality should be encouraged
- Healthy & encouraging environment should be provided
- Ample opportunities should be provided
- Proper organization of curriculum
- Reward creative achievement
- Utilizing creative resources of community
What is a learning disability?

Having trouble:

- Processing information
- Organizing information
- Applying information
Types of Learning Disabilities

Dyslexia: A language and reading disability
Dyscalculia: Problems with arithmetic and math concepts
Dysgraphia: A writing disorder resulting in illegibility
Dyspraxia (Sensory Integration Disorder): Problems with motor coordination
Central Auditory Processing Disorder: Difficulty processing and remembering language-related tasks
Non-Verbal Learning Disorders: Trouble with nonverbal cues, e.g., body language; poor coordination, clumsy
Visual Perceptual/Visual Motor Deficit: Reverses letters; cannot copy accurately;
Language Disorders (Aphasia/Dysphasia): Trouble understanding spoken language; poor reading comprehension
Causes or Presumed causes of Learning Disabilities

- NO real causes
- Might be caused by:
  - Hereditary
  - Teratogenic (congenital abnormalities)
  - Medical
  - Environmental
How to recognize if the student has any Learning Disability?

- Impulsive
- Hyperactive
- Fidgety
- Inattentive
- Disorganized
- Unreasonable emotional negativity
- Emotional outbursts
- Frustration over minor issues
- Bedwetting

(All characteristics may vary with age)
Approaches to diagnose Learning Disability

- Evaluate student’s behavior
- Continuous performance test (CPT)
- Diagnosis should be based on multiple pieces of information and observations
How can I help a special needs student be successful in my classroom?

- **First and foremost** - Do not label a student as “A person who cannot learn and achieve!”
- Follow the assumption that “All Students Can Learn.” Some students, however, may learn in a different way.
- Never publicly point out or make reference to a student with a special needs.
What more can be done......

- Repeat and summarize oral lecture notes,
- Give students written versions of key points,
- Verbalize what is being written on the chalkboard,
- Read aloud the material,
- Send students a copy of booklist for upcoming semester/school year so that students can “get a jump on” the reading assignments,
- Avoid confusing or complicated language,
- Allow student extra time to complete exams/assignments,
- Supporting learning with visuals
- Stressing step-by-step instructions
- Allow students who cannot speak clearly to use a speech synthesizer
- Allow students to tape record lectures
THANK YOU

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