

Tips for G/T Teachers and Counselors

Offer challenge and choice: different levels are appropriate for different kids at different times and in different areas.

Allow gifted kids to be and work together.

Foster a culture of achievement; encourage all to work hard.

Use guided reading to discuss the emotions and dilemmas of characters or historical figures. Point out persistence in the face of failure, need for good communication, oral dilemmas, etc.

Foster a culture of appreciation and acceptance of individual differences. Be alert for teasing, and bullying; offer strategies for dealing with intolerance.

Praise hard work and organization, not just right answers.

When kids are working together, encourage the process of collaboration, not just the end result. Gifted kids sometimes get so hung up on making the product perfect, they take over control, missing the importance of the process.

Encourage trying new things without penalty. Branching out from "tried and true" may be difficult for those focused on perfection. Allow mistakes.

Be careful with assignments. When a gifted student is unclear about expectations, s/he may work for several hours on an assignment; you may have meant to take 30 minutes.

Teach study skills and organization to G/T kids. Just because they are smart does NOT mean they know how to manage time, material, or assignments.

Conduct discussions on social skills, good listening, consideration, and respect for all.

Promote journaling, creative writing, drama, and music as ways to discuss feelings.