

## Teacher Resource Page

Artistically gifted children rarely have opportunities to develop their creative talents in school or in academic gifted programs. To begin addressing the potential of this underserved population, educators need to consider including the arts as an essential dimension of gifted education (not as a mere adjunct).

The arts are *not* dispensable. Artistically gifted children should never feel that their talents lack the value of more “serious” subjects such as, math, science, social studies, or language arts. They need to learn that their artistic gifts and sensibilities, far from banishing them to the margins of their school or society, can give them the means to create.

### **Instructional Accommodations**

There are several areas to consider when trying to accommodate the artistically gifted student: teacher activities, creative expression, display of products, and exposure to art reality.

Teachers should:

- Be accomplished artists with advanced training.
- Expose gifted students to the professional arts world
- Avoid spending excessive time on technique; allow the need to create to be satisfied. (Studies show that by not allowing these students to actually *create* original works, many teachers have inadvertently turned students away from their talents.)
- Allow students to experiment
- Group students according to ability level; if necessary differentiate instruction for the especially fast or slow.

Foster creative expression by:

- Recognizing that technique is necessary, although a lower level of mental functioning; allow for self-expression.
- Providing a variety of media.
- Altering instructional style and materials to foster original thinking.
- Allowing for opportunity for original creation (painting subject of choice, designing sets or wall murals).
- Exposing students to art reviews

Display students' talents by:

- Show-casing in the school
- Designing exhibits for business partners or other members of the community

Expose students to art reality by:

- Studying the lives of past and present artists
- Visiting museums, art festivals
- Inviting working artists in to teach students and share information about career opportunities.

## **Resources and References:**

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\*[Characteristics for Gifted Children.](#)"

<http://www.austega.com/gifted/characteristics.htm> (The entire characteristics list is taken from this source.)

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