Do You See Signs Of Giftedness in Your Child?

When parents see signs of high potential/giftedness in their child, determining the best approach to identification can feel overwhelming at moments. Although there are common traits amongst gifted students, every student is different, making the identification process more complex. Since there are various methods used to assess gifted ability, parents new to gifted education may need assistance throughout the process.

High potential/gifted students may display exceptionality in one or more of the following domains: academic, creativity, intellectuality, leadership, and musical abilities. Children who display signs of high potential/giftedness may also display intense emotions and sensitivity, an ability to grasp material grade levels higher than peers, and the ability to learn information quickly. Students may also display excitement around special topics of interest.

When trying to determine if your child is gifted, being able to identify signs of giftedness in children is the first step. The process of being identified as gifted is not one size fits all and students can display gifted abilities in several fields. Parents at this stage should utilize resources such as the Davidson Institute, The National Association for Gifted Children, and 2ENews to begin identifying the traits and characteristics their child displays.

Most districts follow a multi-phased process to recognize students who need services beyond general education. This process often includes a nomination of the student for further examination of potential. The identification phase includes screening phase, which includes various screening assessments to eliminate bias. The assessment can lead to identification, and placement, if services are indicated.

As you discover more about your child’s potential you will want to begin to work with your child’s teacher, and school personnel. Building rapport with your child’s school will give you the necessary support and specialized knowledge available through these professionals. Typically each school district establishes their own policies, procedures, and assessments for gifted identification.

In regards to when to have your child tested, testing is generally believed to be most reliable and most predictive between the ages of six and nine years old. Parents must be aware of the school’s gifted identification policies and procedures prior to seeking outside tests or assessments. There are no federal mandates or national policies requiring gifted education, which makes it vital for parents and educators to collaborate on how to best help their child.

Resources: