

Educators play an important role in the lives of gifted children and their families. Their primary job is to help gifted children develop their intellectual and academic potential in collaboration with the child's parents.

Teaching gifted children is both exciting and challenging. Research shows that teachers encounter wide ranges of knowledge, skills, and abilities within their classrooms. Teachers must have the skills to differentiate their instruction to help children across the achievement spectrum to learn and grow every day.

Teaching gifted children may require special strategies like acceleration, flexible ability grouping, and specialized pull-out programming.

All teachers should be able to:

- 1. recognize the learning differences, developmental milestones, and cognitive/affective characteristics of gifted and talented students, including those from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and identify their related academic and social-emotional needs;
- 2. design appropriate learning and performance modifications for individuals with gifts and talents that enhance creativity, acceleration, depth and complexity in academic subject matter and specialized domains; and
- 3. select, adapt, and use a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance the learning of gifted and talented students.

National Association for Gifted Children (<u>www.nagc.org</u>)

More information about gifted education and best practices can also be found through <u>www.hoagiesgifted.org</u> and <u>http://ncrge.uconn.edu/</u>