

SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES TO CHALLENGE STUDENTS

Area of Difficulty	Related Behaviors	Suggested Strategies
Organization	Doesn't complete assignments	Incentive system, alternative assignments
	Loses homework/possessions	Daily check-ins, checklists, reminders, routines, targeted incentive systems
	Doesn't come to class prepared	Spare materials in classes that students can borrow
	Disorganized notebooks	Daily notebook checks
	Messy work	Specify clear criteria and have students resubmit work that does not meet criteria, modify expectations
Remembering	Handing in assignments, knowing due dates	Daily check-in, incentive system
	Math facts/other rote memory tasks	Memory aids, use of calculators when possible, reduce demands
Following Directions	Verbal	Provide study partner, repeat directions individually
	Written	Check-in with student, provide clarification when needed, highlight directions for student
Written Production	Poor fine motor skills/motor impersistence	Access to computers for writing assignments when available, reduce writing requirements
	Difficulty organizing thoughts	Assistance with prewriting activities (e.g., brainstorming, outlining), write ideas on index cards so they will be easy to reorganize
	Proofreading problems	Use spell check, have another student/adult proofread, use a proofreading checklist to cue for specific errors
Problems with Test-Taking	Careless mistakes	Supervise checking over work
	Cannot finish within time limits	Allow extra time, break testing into several smaller sessions
Social Skills	Impulsive, disruptive, apathetic, discouraged	Incentive systems, negotiated behavior contract, high rate of personalized positive feedback, hands-on learning
Cognitive Style	Fast and sloppy	Assign shorter tasks with criteria for accuracy, teach self-evaluation, set goals
	Low frustration tolerance	Modify assignments, ensure high rate of success, frequent reinforcement, provide individual help
	Craves novelty/hates repetition	Avoid lecture format or heavy rote learning requirements, use computers and technology when available, use cooperative learning and hands-on learning, avoid unnecessary repetition, build in breaks, vary formats within class periods

ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

Common Myths and Truths about Gifted Students by the Special and Gifted Education Center
http://www.edgateteam.net/sped_gifted/giftandtalent2.htm

Gifted But Learning Disabled: A Puzzling Paradox by Susan Baum
http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/Gifted_learning_disabled.html

Differentiating Curriculum for Gifted Students by Sandra L. Berger
http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content/diff_curriculum.html