

# **Social and Emotional Development in Gifted Learners And the Development of Meaningful Peer Relationships**

## **Presented by:**

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## **Presentation Outline**

**Tuesday September 26, 2017  
6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.  
Queen-Elizabeth High School**

1. Overview of presentation
2. Social and emotional development in the gifted learner defined
3. Characteristics of social and emotional development in gifted learners
4. The impact of social and emotional development on peer relationships
5. What parents can do to support positive peer interactions
6. Breakout session (Kids only) Parents (AGM)
7. Reconvene as a group
8. Kids discussion/ Questions
9. References and Resources available at: [complexlearners.com](http://complexlearners.com)

## **Presentation Goals:**

- Improve understanding of your/your child's social-emotional development (SED)
- Improve understanding how social and emotional development impact peer relationships
- Improve understanding as a parent, what you can do to support friendship building in your gifted learners
- Improve your understanding as a gifted learner, your social needs and how to navigate social situations

## Social and Emotional Development in the Gifted Learner

### Gifted Learners Characteristics of Social and Emotional Development

Tend to be more resilient than same aged peers.  
Tend to more emotionally intense (highs and lows)  
Can easily be hurt by others  
Can be self-critical and get overwhelmed if they feel like they have emotionally hurt someone else  
Tend to possess exceptional reasoning skills  
Rigid Sense of Justice  
Rapid rate of learning  
Strong capacity to understand abstract information  
Creative problem solvers  
Strong sense of detail and order  
Early development of empathy  
Need to know the 'why'  
They generally perceive the world differently than their non-gifted counterparts.

### SED:

Characteristics of Social Emotional Development in gifted learners

Emotional Intensity: Definition

Explosive outbursts

Crying

Paralyzing anxiety

Fear

giddiness

highly frenetic energy

laughter

happiness

AND fluctuation between any of these resulting in **Mood swings:**

These fluctuations between these highs and lows can directly impact peer relationships

Affective Memory:

### The Impact of Social and Emotional Development on Peer Relationships

Gifted learners are often driven by the intensity of their cognitive abilities strong need to understand the world. This is often lead by:

- Logic
- Detail
- Order

This can directly impact peer relationships in that:

- The gifted learner may hold high standards of themselves and others
- Can get bored easily
- Can become rigid in thinking style

Developing Meaningful peer relationship is a common struggle among gifted learners (Behaviour and personality)

Few friends is often an indicator of personality NOT social abilities

There appear to be three key factors involved in gifted children's social development:

1. A responsive home environment in which the child is respected;
2. Opportunities to relate to other gifted children-particularly during the early years, when self-concept is being formed;
3. Opportunities to relate to the mainstream during adolescence.

From: <http://sengifted.org/developmental-phases-of-social-development/>

**The Best interventions focus on:**

- Social-emotional development
- Emotional awareness
- The development of coping strategies

## What Parents Can do to Support Positive Peer Interactions

*From: Parenting the Gifted Child (Webb, Gore, Amend, & DeVries, 2007, p. 182*

- Support your child in making time for friends
- Take initiative to open doors for possible friendships
- Learn to be a good host
- Practice friendship skills in low stress situations
- Be a good listener to show interest and caring for others
- Be sincere about abilities, but avoid bragging
- Give compliments to others to bring attention to their good qualities
- Participate in group activities, perhaps even in areas of weakness to create friendship opportunities.
- Be accepting of those who think and act differently from you

- There are a variety of games that can help practice social skills in a fun and interactive way. Some games include

*Awkward Moment* and *Buffalo: The Name Dropping Game*.

Parents can be key in supporting the development of strong peer relationships in their gift learners by:

**B**eing a model!

**R**einforce appropriate social and problem solving skills

**I**nsight- provide insight about what's working and what is not!

**G**oals- set appropriate goals around developing social skills

**H**igh expectations- helping gifted learners understand this about themselves and others

**T**each! Social skills and positive interactions need to be practiced!

## References and Resources

Aiken, E. (2012). "Gifted Children and Friendship: Finding Balance between Research and Reality." NAGC Convention 2012, Denver, CO.

Fonseca, C. (2016). *Emotional Intensity in Gifted Students: Helping Kids Cope with Explosive Feelings* by

Gross, M.U.M. (2002). "Play Partner" or "Sure Shelter": What Gifted Children Look for in Friendship. Available online at <http://sengifted.org/archives/articles/play-partner-or-sure-shelter-what-gifted-children-look-for-in-friendship>

Lind, S. (2004). Introversion. Available online at <http://sengifted.org/archives/articles/introversion>

Webb, J. T., Gore, J. L., Amend, E. R. & DeVries, A. R. (2007). *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*. Tucson, AR: Great Potential Press.

[www.gatecalgary.ca](http://www.gatecalgary.ca)

<http://sengifted.org/5-tips-for-helping-gifted-children-make-friends/>

<http://sengifted.org/friendships/>

<http://sengifted.org/developmental-phases-of-social-development/>