

## Working with schools

- Good assessment is important
  - What are child's strengths and weaknesses
  - Rule out other issues
    - \***Vision** – tracking/teaming/convergence issues can impact many areas
      - Is not obvious in regular vision screening!
    - hearing, health concerns, hypoglycemia
- Meet with guidance team/student support team
- Brief look at IEP versus 504 plan
  - IEP: Individual Education Plan. Special Education law (IDEA)
  - 504 Plan – Americans with Disabilities Act. Antidiscrimination law, accommodations or modifications provided to “level the playing field”
  - Not every twice-exceptional child will need a formal 504 plan or IEP

## Accommodations

- Note: Idaho Department of Education PDF on Twice-Exceptional has a thorough list with lots of pages of possible accommodations <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/gifted-talented/files/manuals/ Twice-Exceptional-Students-Both-Gifts-Challenges-or-Disabilities.pdf>.

Some useful general accommodations:

- Allow keyboarding (can be hard to learn, but worth it)
- Allow movement breaks
- Allow preferential seating
- Assess specific content in spelling and writing skills separate from other content
- Allow extended time on tests and assignments
- Allow use of sensory items (fidget, water bottle, etc.)
- Check back for understanding of assignments
- Check planner for accuracy/provide written instructions
- Allow extra time for packing up
- Allow quiet space for test taking or working on projects/allow use of headphones
- Assist child with desk/binder organization

Some sample accommodations for writing issues:

- Allow keyboarding
- Allow scribe/dictation
- Allow use of graph paper for handwriting/math (Provide sufficient space for math calculations!!!)
- Limit copying from whiteboard, textbooks
- Provide shorter writing assignments
- Allow drafts to focus on content, not spelling, grammar, punctuation
- Provide scoring rubric, models, and anchor papers for students

### Home Strategies

- Help them develop good habits and routines
  - Regular study time (even if they don't have homework)
  - Regular backpack "tidy"
  - Communication folder (from/to school)
  - Preparation habits
    - Backpack packed the night before
    - Clothes, other items laid out
    - Get enough sleep
    - Get a good breakfast
    - Get up and out the door with time to spare
- Dedicated study space with necessary supplies
  - This may not be a desk, ask child to help design area
  - Have a kid-friendly timer ("Time Timers" are good visual)
- Provide extra time for homework (and everything else!)
- Don't overschedule activities
- Get little tasks done ASAP
- Just start with 15 minutes (can help with anxiety, avoidance of difficult tasks)
- Homework's not done until...
  - It's packed up
  - It's turned in
- Intersperse breaks (rest and recharging physical activity)
- Provide healthy snacks (gifted brains burn calories faster – need protein and fat often)
- Provide reminders (they may be distractible and have memory weaknesses)
  - "natural consequences" may backfire if used inappropriately!
- Be a good role model for working
- Provide supervision if necessary: "Lend them your frontal lobe"
- Empathize – these kids are working very hard!
- Help them approach complex assignments
  - Acknowledge anxiety
  - Just 15 minutes approach
  - Strategize steps to completion
- Let them offload unnecessary aspects of work
  - Be their scribe
  - Ask guiding questions
  - Help review rubric when editing
- Focus on effort and progress, not ability
- Help them find ways to reward themselves for extra effort
- Discouragement is toxic
- Build on successes
- Work in areas of strength
- Work in areas of interest, especially for remediation of deficits
- Educate child about his/her strengths
- Educate child about his/her weaknesses
- Share your own struggles and triumphs with similar issues
- Teach compensatory skills (e.g., Sticky note on laptop "desktop" for reminders)
- Teach child to advocate for him/herself (e.g., ask for breaks at school, etc.)

## Twice Exceptional (2e) Web Resources

- GEAC website <http://lwsdgeac.org/about-giftedness/> **Twice Exceptional (2e)heading**  
March 2017 PowerPoint presentation on Twice Exceptional
- Gifted homeschoolers brochure <http://giftedhomeschoolers.org/ghf-press/twice-exceptional-smart-kids-learning-differences/> - awesome brochure that captures a lot of good info.
- Idaho Department of Education <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/gifted-talented/files/manuals/Twice-Exceptional-Students-Both-Gifts-Challenges-or-Disabilities.pdf>  
Over 130 pages of thorough coverage of twice exceptional and education.
- Hoagies Gifted [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/twice\\_exceptional.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/twice_exceptional.htm)  
Hoagies is a good resource for gifted in general, but has lots on 2e as well.
- National Association for Gifted Children NAGC White Paper on Twice-Exceptionality  
<http://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Position%20Statement/twice%20exceptional.pdf>.
- The Twice Exceptional Dilemma National Education Association 2006  
<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/twiceexceptional.pdf>.
- 2e: Twice-Exceptional Newsletter <http://www.2enewsletter.com/> Really good resource. You can sign up for a free email briefings or subscribe to the newsletter.
- Uniquely Gifted <http://www.uniquelygifted.org/> some links may be out of date, but there are lots of treasures here.
- Visual spatial learning style <http://visuallspatial.org/index.php>.
- Understood.org <https://www.understood.org/en>
- Wrightslaw Twice Exceptional Children (2e) <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/2e.index.htm> lots of good legal/educational info for 2e.
- Montgomery County Public Schools - Twice Exceptional Students: A STAFF GUIDEBOOK for Supporting the Achievement of Gifted Students with Disabilities  
[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/enriched/programs/gtld/0470.15\\_TwiceExceptionalStudents\\_Handbook\\_Web.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/enriched/programs/gtld/0470.15_TwiceExceptionalStudents_Handbook_Web.pdf) Written for teachers but full of good info for parents too.
- Inspiring 5 min video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSVV7SuMvWY> "Outside of the Box Gifted Learners" 2010 IAGC

## Twice Exceptional Book Recommendations (And many more listed on the above websites):

- Parent's Guide to Gifted Children (Webb et al.)
- Sensational Kids (Miller) – Sensory Processing
- Myth of Laziness (Levine), A Mind at a Time (Levine)
  - Myth of Laziness has an excellent section on writing issues
- The Mislabeled Child (Eide and Eide)
- The Motivation Breakthrough: 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child (Lavoie)
- Organizing Solutions for People with ADHD (Pinsky)
- Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults: ADHD, Bipolar, OCD, Asperger's, Depression, and Other Disorders (Olenchak, Webb, etc.)
- Smart But Scattered (Dawson and Guare)
- The Highly Sensitive Child (Elaine Aron)
- That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week (Ana Homayoun)
- Thinking Differently: An Inspiring Guide for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities (Flink)