

Gifted/Twice-Exceptionality Fact Sheet

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Fact Sheet

The term “twice-exceptional,” (aka “2e”) is used to describe gifted children who, have the characteristics of gifted students with the potential for high achievement and give evidence of one or more disabilities as defined by federal or state eligibility criteria.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a series of neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. It is often diagnosed in childhood and lasts throughout the lifespan. One in 59 children will be diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum, per the CDC. Autism and giftedness can have significant overlap in terms of neurological development and behavioral presentation, which can make parsing a diagnosis challenging, but good treatment plans exist to help these children soar.

Notes.

1. While the terms “Asperger’s Disorder” and “High-Functioning Autism” are still used, they are no longer considered best practice. Neither is a separate diagnosis in the DSM-5; both terms were folded into Autism Spectrum Disorder.
2. Students may receive a diagnosis of Pragmatic Social Communication Disorder if the Social-Emotional challenges are more relevant than the neurological differences of Autism/Giftedness
3. If you student has received a diagnosis of ASD, it is important to get/request both IQ and Achievement Data as part of an evaluation to ensure that learning needs are being fully addressed

Treatment:

- 1) Metacognitive Therapy – Helping kids to understand the different perspectives and opinions of others by developing Theory of Mind skills.
- 2) Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) – helping 2e students learn how to connect with others by understanding their own emotions and those of others and developing the prosocial communication skills to successfully interact.
- 3) 504 Plans at School – structural and behavioral support in the school environment
- 4) G/IEP – accommodating the major strengths and weaknesses of a 2e profile. We want to play to the strengths of the child and support the weaknesses as best as we can.

Diagnostic Checklist:

<http://mcgt.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/%CB%86x-Giftedness-Asp.Dis .Checklist.pdf>

Further reading:

<https://www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-blog/gifted-children-with-aspergers-syndrome/>
<https://www.mindsuntapped.com/blog/twice-exceptional-children-in-the-classroom>