



**Monthly Goal: I respond to others in a way that respects their feelings and knowledge base.**

## What Your Gifted Child Won't Learn from Academics

Gifted children benefit from the same social-emotional, and non-cognitive skills as every other child. However, their heightened sensitivities, asynchrony, frequent outlier social status, and tendency to question *everything* complicates this task. They will scoff at rules or values that do not make sense, hide their insecurities, and may be hampered by their own tendencies toward overthinking, rigidity or existential depression.

As a parent, you can offer the following guidance:

1. **Tolerance:** Teach strategies for managing frustration, such as deep breathing exercises, attending to the present moment (e.g., mindfulness), imagining him or herself in the friend's situation, or even counting to ten.
2. **Humility:** Explain what it means to be gifted, and help your child put giftedness into perspective. Intellectual humility not only fosters a greater openness to others' opinions, but can relieve self-imposed pressure to be the best. Instead

of focusing on their innate talents, show recognition for their hard work, self-directed behavior, intellectual or creative risk-taking, compassion and tolerance for others, and collaborative work with peers.

3. **Endurance:** You can help your child learn to pace him or herself, set short-term goals along the way, appreciate the value of hard work, and raise the bar on what he/she expects for themselves.
4. **Social Interactions:** Offering support and specific guidance to younger children may help them feel more confident, and improve their social skills. Gently pointing out behaviors that might be offensive is important, but praise them for their strengths and any improvements, as well.

To read more about ways to help your child with social-emotional and non-cognitive skills, go to: "[What Your Gifted Child Won't Learn from Academics](#)" from Hoagie's Gifted Education Page blog hop on Beyond Academics.

## Director's Discussion

Our kids learn so much from observing the world around them. School is one of those places, but so are the soccer field, the grocery store, church, walking the neighborhood, etc. While it may seem that our kids "never pay attention" we know they do, and they are learning (whether they realize it or not) academics as well as how to interact.

If we (as teachers and/or parents) feel like our kids are not responding to the direction we provide, we may want to run through a mental checklist that Dr. Zakreski calls SCOOPER:

- S – Same Place (don't shout across the house; make eye contact)
- C – Clear instructions (know what you want BEFORE you give directions)
- O – One more time (have your kid repeat the direction)
- O – On time (set a time limit, sooner the better)
- P – Perform the task
- E – Evaluate (if good, go on; if poor, fix)
- R – Reward!

If you'd like to read a few of Dr. Zakreski's other suggestions, I'd encourage starting at [Dr. Matt Zakreski Psychologist, Gifted Expert, International Speaker \(ghfdialogue.org\)](#).

Michael Elder, Ed.D.  
Director, College and Career Readiness

**Summer Opportunity:** Gifted services is excited to announce the return of our CogniCon Summer Program! CogniCon is a free program that allows gifted students to come together for four days in the summer to explore exciting passion areas. It is also a great chance to meet other gifted students from across the county. This is a great opportunity for our gifted learners. Each school is given an allotment of spots and it tends to fill very quickly! Please see the CogniCon flyer for more information, and watch for further updates. Registration begins March 19 at 5:00pm.

## A note from your specialist...

Here is a snapshot of what we are doing in the AIG pullout groups.

### 4th Grade and 5th Grade Reading:

The students are writing a book! The focus of our book is "Kindness". They are letting their creativity fly as some students chose to compose stories, give tips for being kind to others,

created poetry to share about kindness, etc. All are illustrating their work. The students are doing a beautiful job. These books will be published and available for purchase when they are sent off to the publisher. Ms. Holder will keep you posted about ordering as those orders are through the company, and not the school.

### 4th Grade and 5th Grade Math:

Students have continued working on Hands-on-Equations. Hands-on-Equations is a program that teaches students to solve equations with variables represent the unknown. Students use manipulatives and then learn to transfer that to drawings and then to written equations. The students are enjoying this program and are looking forward to moving onto fractions!

AIG Specialist-Susan Holder  
susan.holder@onslow.k12.nc.us  
910.353.4443-HCES  
910.347.1717-BCES

