



**CAREER AND COLLEGE**  
Gifted Services  
Excellence in Education

Onslow County Schools

# AIG Focus

**Monthly Goal: Student participates and cooperates in group work and classroom discussions.**

## Giftedness and Introversion

For the introverted child, it is the warm acceptance by others that allows for a healthy development of self and for being-in-the-world with authenticity. Understanding the characteristics and needs of introverted youngsters facilitates the accommodations needed for these quiet kids to develop optimally.

### Characteristics of Introverts

- Have two personas: private and public
- Seem to enjoy being alone in their room
- Are private people who reveal thoughts to only a few
- Get grouchy when around people too long
- Are perfectionistic

### Strategies That Can Benefit Introverted Children

- ⇒ Outdoor Activities: Spending time in nature allows for a solitary experience of connection without communicating directly with other people.
- ⇒ Solitary Exercise: Examples are martial arts, track, gymnastics, and swimming, rather than a team sport like basketball.
- ⇒ Video games; computer time; listening to music; watching a movie: These activities allow for decompression.
- ⇒ Creative Activities: These pursuits provide opportunities to be alone without being lonely.
- ⇒ Meditation or Visualization: Engaging in these practices can provide quiet times of centering and regaining a sense of calm.

To read more about Introversion and how you can help your child at home, check out the whole article, "[Joy and Challenge: Giftedness and Introversion](#)" by Dorothy Sisk, Ed.D., Ph.D., and Michele Kane, Ed.D.

## Director's Discussion

### Skill x Effort = Achievement

A while back I used the above "formula" to discuss the importance of developing both academic talents as well as personal drive in order to achieve goals. I think that is all still very true.

However, I was thinking about a multiplier that may need to be added which is "Opportunities" or "Experiences." Providing kids with experiences is so critical to growth. This summer I heard a student speaker share that the reason his teacher was so impactful was that, "she could have made it an assignment, but instead she made it an experience." Getting to experience a variety of things is key to lasting learning.

How kids engage in learning can vary especially when we think about introverted and extroverted personalities. Introverted students will often ask, "Do I have to work with a group?" I believe our responsible answer as adults is, "Not all the time." There are times when we do need to encourage cooperation. Some kids are going to do this more naturally. The critical part is providing opportunity and supporting the effort of our kids. So perhaps we revise our equation:

**Opportunities \* (Skill x Effort) = Achievement**  
—Dr. Michael Elder, College and Career Readiness

## A note from your specialist...

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

**4th Grade Reading:** We recently finished "The Jabberwock" by Lewis Carroll where students used content clues to define unknown words while also analyzing characteristics of poetry. For the month of November, students will complete ThinkLaw activities that look at actual court cases and learn how to support their argument with reasoning and evidence.

**4th Grade Math:** Students have been learning to use critical thinking to make sense of and solve multi-step problems.

These problems incorporate a wide variety of math skills as they solve algebraic equations using elimination and inverse operations.

**5th Grade Reading:** We recently finished a study of "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe where students analyzed characteristics of poetry. For the month of November, students will complete their Figurative Language Activity. They will also complete ThinkLaw activities that look at actual court cases and learn how to support their argu-

ment with reasoning and evidence.

**5th Grade Math:** Students are learning to use critical thinking and problem-solving strategies to solve problems multi-step algebraic equations. They will also complete activities with decimals and fractions. No AIG Classes in December due to 3rd Grade Sweep Screen.

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