



CAREER AND COLLEGE
Gifted Services
Excellence in Education

Onslow County Schools

AIG Focus

Monthly Goal: Student responds to others in a way that respects their feelings and knowledge base.

How to Teach Gifted Students Humility

Humility is an essential emotional intelligence quality. Under Dan Goleman's Emotional Intelligence framework, humility is part of self-awareness. When you are humble: you learn better, you get along better with others, you don't feel the pressure of perfectionism, you can more easily persuade people to your point of view, you are more open to others' ideas, and on and on.

How to teach humility:

- Practice listening skills exercises.
- Keep a journal.
- Role play problematic situations.
- Teach the art of the sincere apology.
- Read stories of leaders and celebrities who are not humble.
- Serve other people.
- Practice seeking feedback and responding to it with kindness and acceptance.

If a child is displaying signs of arrogance and/or a lack of humility surrounding their giftedness, it is time for "the talk." Be sure to point out:

- Being gifted has its pros and cons.
- It is important to talk to someone we trust about how we feel.
- Wise people know that they have something to learn from everyone.
- We have to be sensitive about the way others feel.
- It is never okay to make people feel badly about themselves.
- Brain smarts is not everything there is about being a great person.

To read more about teaching children humility, check out the whole article, "[How to Teach Gifted Students Humility](#)" by Lisa Van Gemert on the Gifted Guru's website.

Director's Discussion:

Each month brings its own challenges and celebrations. However, what I see in kids and teachers is that March can be a month that is especially challenging. March tends to have few days off and all the learning and projects that were "way off in the Spring" are quickly approaching.

Some people embrace the challenge while others employ different coping mechanisms including avoiding the work altogether. We generally can recognize the behaviors in our children that we commonly use or those behaviors that we have grown through. As our kids present challenges, it can be difficult to figure out what is causing them. Often our best resource is to embrace humility, share our challenges, and seek to open doors for our kids to do the same. Humility is, of course, not just for kids. It is for all of us. It is the understanding that we are all learning and growing. We all make mistakes (sometimes more publicly than others). Helping our kids see that we not only make mistakes, but we apologize when that is appropriate allows them to do the same.

While we want our kids to be academically confident, we also want them to recognize that they will learn far more by working with others than they can on their own. It is a careful balance for certain. The classic line, "Kids cannot be what they cannot see" calls us to model the behavior we want to see our kids use each day.

Michael Elder, Ed.D.

Director, College and Career Readiness

A note from your specialist...

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

3rd Grade Reading: Students have just begun working on a 'Tournament of Animal Adaptations'. They will be researching animals with unique adaptations and are choosing criteria for a tournament bracket style competition.

3rd Grade Math:

Students are working on deepening their understanding of fractions at an advanced level. We have just begun discussing comparisons, and will move into finding equivalent fractions next.

4th Grade Reading:

Students have been continuing their work with

Greek and Latin Roots using prefixes to understand the meaning of new words.

4th Grade Math: Students will continue to learn about and solve algebraic equations using Hands on Equations kits. They are getting really good at making 'legal moves' and solving for x.

5th Grade Reading: Students are getting close to completing our Novel Study using the book "Restart". They will finalize this unit by presenting a Character Analysis powerpoint.

5th Grade Math: Students have been solving

problems using the four operations and decimals. We are moving into our Fractions unit of study next before we solve algebraic word problems.

3rd/4th/5th Grade IG: Students have just begun our work using "Sphero" robots. This unit will ask them to practice block coding as they create a track for their sphero to complete.

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