

Gifted

GATE Booklet:

A training program for teachers to join the Gifted programs.

Part 2: The image and characteristics of the gifted pupils' teacher



Image by tonodiaz on Freepik

Content prepared by Dr. Yehuda Hamovitz, Ron Vardi Center, Israel

Language edited by: Martin Svirchev & Zornitsa Staneva, ZinevArt Technologies, Bulgaria

Collaborators: Vida Drąsutė, Edita Rudminaitė, Goda Jocyte, Nojus Martynas Jokubaitis, VšĮ "eMundus", Lithuania

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Content

Foundation of the adequate teacher for gifted children	3
Models identifying the effective teacher	7
Closing gaps – from a classic teacher to a gifted one.....	13

Foundation of the adequate teacher for gifted children

What is a good teacher?

Khalil, M. & Accaria Z. (2016) *clime (advocate?)* for dependence. The image of the good teacher is shaped by the definition of **good teaching** which in turn is influenced by the definition of **good learning** that is eventually derived from what is the expected image of the graduate.

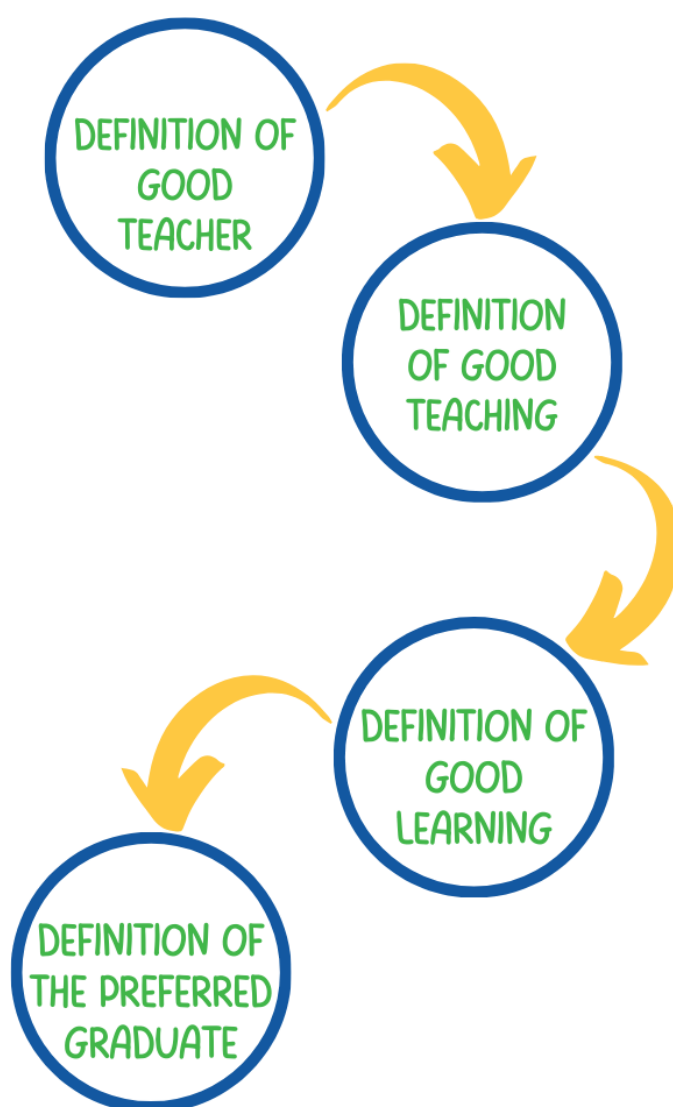


Image 1. The image of good teacher

In their research, they were looking for answers to the following 4 questions that relate to the assumptions demonstrated in the upper chart:

- First question: What is "gifted" and what is a "gifted student"?
- Second question: Emotional and social aspects of the "gifted" students.
- Third question: What do students look for in a "good" teacher?
- Fourth question: What do "gifted" students look for in a "good" teacher?

The found traits that are most expected from the gifted student's teacher:

Expected from a good teacher:

- ✓ Leadership and administration skills.
- ✓ Interpersonal communication and concern.
- ✓ Professionalism.

Expected from good teaching:

- Customized/adapted/modified teaching.
- Challenging and interesting lessons.
- Varied methods and materials.

Expected from teacher-student relationships:

- Mutual respect.

- Faith in the student and their abilities.
- Discovering and identifying the uniqueness of every student.

The formula for success in teaching gifted pupils is:

Success = adequate teacher + good teaching skills + good relationship

Adequate teacher:

- ✓ One who is not afraid of this mission.
- ✓ Presents a strong and firm personality.
- ✓ Has a strong and stable personality, is assertive, humble, tactful.



Image 2. Teacher Asking a Question to the Class, a photo by Max Fischer, Pexels

Good teaching skills:

- ✓ Having the desire and passion to learn and develop.
- ✓ Well educated, well trained, and with accessibility to multiple sources of information and knowledge.
- ✓ Enthusiastic to learn, able to admit gaps of knowledge.
- ✓ Able to see the big picture and future orientation.

Good relationship with pupils:

- ✓ Allows itself to be involved in all life aspects of the pupil.
- ✓ Will be perceived by the pupils as a partner for studying and less as a parental figure.
- ✓ Loving and caring personality.

Models identifying the effective teacher

12 characteristics of an effective teacher for gifted children:

(Hultgren & Seely 1982)

- 1) Mature, experienced and self-secured.
- 2) Possessing higher intelligence.
- 3) Interested in a wider scope of intellectual knowledge.
- 4) Highly accomplished.
- 5) Has a sympathetic attitude toward gifted children.
- 6) Systematic and orderly.
- 7) Alert and imaginative.
- 8) Has a sense of humor.
- 9) Able to facilitate learning without explicit instruction or direction.
- 10) Understanding the necessity to work harder.
- 11) Has broad general knowledge and expertise.
- 12) Recognizes interpersonal differences.

What Do Students Look for in a “Good” Teacher?

(M. Khalil & Z. Accariya 2016 - 2)

1. Professionally, good teachers are:

- ✓ authorities in their field,
- ✓ capable of stimulating their students,
- ✓ developing their intellectual abilities.

2. Pedagogically, good teachers:

- ✓ demonstrate originality and creativity,
- ✓ furnish a personal example to their students,
- ✓ guide and encourage the development of intellectual curiosity and learning motivation among their students,
- ✓ are able to express their ideas simply and clearly.

3. On the personal-emotional side, good teachers:

- ✓ have the attributes of good parents,
- ✓ are sensitive, concerned, attentive, understanding, encouraging, and supportive.

Good Teachers:

(Avinon 2004)

1. A good teacher is brave, honest, and affectionate, and demonstrates self-respect, self-awareness, individual responsibility, imagination, improvisation skills, and a sense of humor.
2. Such personality traits enable the development of a personal relationship between students and teachers in which teachers are transformed into mentors-educators who strive to stabilize the identity, worldview, and life values of their students.

Qualities of Ideal Teacher Educators:

(Tunca et al. 2015)

Professional roles and responsibilities:

- ✓ Structuring and assessment process.
- ✓ Adopting constructivist philosophy.

- ✓ Getting to know students.
- ✓ Structuring the content.
- ✓ Managing the class effectively.
- ✓ Providing guidance and counselling.
- ✓ Structuring the teaching-learning process.

Professional values:

Creativity – philanthropy – consistency – love of the profession – being against psychological violence – modesty – empathy – self-confidence – self-denial – care for students – respect for human dignity – patience – tolerance – openness to learning – leadership – honesty – open-mindedness – scientific approach – respect for freedom of thoughts and faith – freethought – openness to collaboration – conscientiousness.

Personal characteristics:

Sincerity – smiling – discipline – a sense of humor – enthusiasm – sociability – neatness – courage – uniqueness – self-evaluation – altruism.

Professional ethics principles

- ✓ not discriminating against students because of religion, language, ethnic background, gender, and academic achievement.
- ✓ giving feedback on evaluation on time.
- ✓ Being fair in evaluation.
- ✓ Providing the necessary information for the class.
- ✓ Not reflecting personal life to the class.

- ✓ Punctual.
- ✓ Not reflecting political opinion to the class.

Social responsibility:

- ✓ Sensitive to social, domestic and international issues.

Professional and didactic abilities of the gifted teacher:

1. Is an expert in the subjects being taught.
2. Is motivated to look for new and advanced learning materials, options and sources.
3. Uses multiple different teaching skills and techniques.
4. Builds curricula and sets goals (KPI – Key Performance Indicators) for achievements.
5. Assists in selecting sources of information.
6. Develops the product and makes assessments.



Image 3. Woman Wearing Gray Blazer Writing on Dry-erase Board, a photo by Christina Morillo, Pexels

The gifted teacher should know how to:

(Alleducationschools.com 2022)

- ✓ Design a curriculum that addresses the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social needs of gifted students.
- ✓ Create assignments/activities for gifted learners with different levels of ability rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.
- ✓ Be flexible in all things and try to turn unexpected circumstances into learning opportunities.
- ✓ Permit students to take on individual projects based on their own interests.
- ✓ Allow students to work ahead at their own pace, and stress learning skills like research and questioning rather than rote memorization and

regurgitation.

- ✓ Make as much of your curriculum as interactive as possible, either between the students and the teacher, or between the students themselves.
- ✓ Explore the real world and contemporary issues in the classroom. Do not be afraid to state opinions and encourage debate.
- ✓ Bring other educators into the classroom to expand learning opportunities for students.
- ✓ Encourage gifted students from other grade levels and schools to interact.
- ✓ Promote extracurricular activities with an intellectual focus.
- ✓ Allow students to set individual goals and encourage them to be ambitious.
- ✓ Incorporate insights and advice offered by the parents of gifted students.
- ✓ Do not place too much pressure on gifted students or set expectations too high.
- ✓ Provide counselling when necessary.
- ✓ Acknowledge that students who are gifted in one area may struggle in another.
- ✓ Avoid giving extra in-class work or homework to students who finish early. Even gifted kids interpret this as an unfair punishment.
- ✓ Offer lots of opportunities for gifted kids to socialize with each other and with other students in the school.
- ✓ Provide supplementary learning tools that students can pursue in their own direction.
- ✓ Honor the differences of your students and look for what makes each child unique beyond his or her intellectual abilities.

Closing gaps – from a classic teacher to a gifted one

- ✓ Perceiving and embedding the change in power relations between the teacher and the pupil, from more authoritarian to a partner to self-development.
- ✓ Perceiving the need to widen the scope of every subject learned and delving deeper into details.
- ✓ Thorough training in pedagogic skills, professional skills, and emotional skills.

Are You Up for the Challenge of a Gifted Education Teacher Career?

(Alleducationschools.com, 2023)

What Does a Gifted Education Teacher Do?

- ✓ Plans challenging lessons and assignments to cater to the ability level of bright students.
- ✓ Develops and learns innovative methods for teaching gifted and talented students.
- ✓ Gathers materials and resources, and invites special guests to encourage class time achievement.
- ✓ Educates students and parents about the opportunities and difficulties associated with exceptional talents.
- ✓ Encourages students to develop discipline, accountability, productivity, creativity, and leadership skills.
- ✓ Assists in the college and career selection process (*for secondary gifted education teachers*).

Curriculum and Teaching Standards:

- ✓ Dedicated Classrooms – Gifted learners sometimes blend into the rest of the student population, but research has shown that these students perform

better when given their own classroom and curriculum. These classrooms may function as two classes, or as a unique entity.

- ✓ Acceleration – This is simply the process of teaching gifted students at a higher level than their age or grade would typically prescribe. The ongoing challenge for gifted education teachers is determining the right degree of acceleration to challenge students without causing confusion.
- ✓ Curriculum Compacting – It is important for teachers to reduce the time spent on certain subjects and eliminate redundancy without ignoring these subjects completely. This process, similar to acceleration, involves finding ways to teach more in less time without compromising the depth of learning.
- ✓ Grouping – Gifted students vary in their specific talents and individual personalities. Grouping similar students together allows teachers to focus and accelerate their curriculum, which would be more difficult in a more diverse classroom.
- ✓ Identification – This is the process of identifying students with gifts, understanding where and how they excel, and identifying the learning strategies from which those students will benefit the most.
- ✓ Specialized Programmes – In addition to separate classrooms and learning opportunities, many gifted students benefit from specialized learning opportunities. These could include field trips, hands-on experiences, or topical classroom guests. The gifted education teacher will need to think outside the classroom as much as possible.

Best Practices for Teaching Gifted Learners:

- ✓ Design a curriculum that specifically addresses the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social needs of gifted students.
- ✓ Create assignments and activities for gifted learners with different levels of ability rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

- ✓ Be flexible and try to turn unexpected circumstances into learning opportunities.
- ✓ Permit individual projects that encourage students based on their own interests.
- ✓ Stress learning skills that allow students to work ahead at their own pace and use research and questioning rather than mere memorization and repetition.
- ✓ Make curriculum interactive either between the students and the teacher, or between the students themselves.
- ✓ Explore the real world and contemporary issues that help students state their opinions and encourage healthy debate.
- ✓ Invite other educators into the classroom to expand learning opportunities for students.
- ✓ Encourage interaction with gifted students from other grade levels, classes, and schools.
- ✓ Promote extracurricular activities, especially those with an intellectual focus.
- ✓ Allow students to set goals that promote individuality and ambition.
- ✓ Incorporate insights and advice that is offered by the parents of gifted students.
- ✓ Do not apply too much pressure on gifted students or set expectations too high.
- ✓ Acknowledge differences and realize that students who are gifted in one area may struggle in another.
- ✓ Offer opportunities for gifted kids and let them socialize with each other and with other students in the school.
- ✓ Provide resources such as counselling if it is needed, and



Image 4. Boy In Green Shirt, a photo by CDC, Pexels

supplementary learning tools.

- ✓ Honor the differences of all the students and look for what makes each child unique beyond their intellectual abilities.