

Characteristics of Gifted/Autistic Youth

- Poor social skills and understanding of social cues
- Savant abilities
 - Autistic individual who shows signs of giftedness (approximately 10% of autistic population)
- Preference for routine
- Low IQ
 - Generally their giftedness will occur in areas other than intellectual
- Creative abilities
 - Artistic and musical
- Extreme possessiveness of unusual objects
- Hypersensitivity to sensory stimuli

Screening and Identification Procedures for Gifted/Autistic Youth

- Evaluate using standardized behavioral rating scales
 - *Scales for Rating the Behavioral Characteristics of Superior Students (SRBCSS)*
- Use abstract measure of intelligence such as the *Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test (UNIT)*, or *Leiter International Performance Scale-Revised*
 - This measurement will offset their poor communication and social skills
- Look for indication of outstanding talent/ability
- Construct a developmental history

Instructional Strategies for Gifted/Autistic Youth

- Use hands-on kinesthetic activities
- Teach to their strengths
- Use physical, verbal, and visual aids to signify transition
- Infuse social and communication skills into the academic programming
- Provide structure and routine
- Include parent(s), clinical professional(s), and student when determining educational programming