

## Guidance for Social and Emotional Needs

Some high ability learners have difficulties socializing with peers. This causes them to feel they are "different" from their peers. Being extremely mature for their age, reading higher level material, pressure from parents, teasing by peers, underachievement from lack of challenge, or inability to use gift or talent due to instruction are just a few reasons why high ability learners develop social or emotional problems. Poor self-concept and lack of self-respect may cause students to isolate themselves from peers, cling to adults, become a class clown, become an underachiever, display "at-risk" behaviors or feel "out of place." Culturally diverse, economically diverse and female students may also feel insecure or "out of place." As teacher, leader, and role model for these students I will provide support for these students by:

- Maintaining a non-judgmental attitude
- Accepting individuality
- Creating a non-threatening, comfortable environment
- Emphasizing student strengths
- Praising students for efforts and accomplishments

If classroom guidance efforts are unsuccessful, the following steps of action will take place:

- Meeting with parents
- G/T committee will meet to create an intervention
- Referral to the school psychologist or Home-School Coordinator
- Counseling services will be provided either at school or referral to an outside counselor