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ABSTRACT

Presented by the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction are techniques to be used by local administrative units for identification of gifted and talented students. Suggestions are given for use of a teacher-observation and recommendation sheet and for construction of teacher made observational checklists. A scale for rating behavioral characteristics of superior students (in the areas of learning, motivation, creativity, and leadership), and checklists for student-peer nominations and for evaluations by teachers of students in kindergarten, first grade, and grades 2-6 are provided. Also included are a checklist of characteristics of talented pupils (for use at any grade level) and a checklist for recommending gifted and creative students (in middle grades and above). Various cognitive and affective tests, and tests of cultural differences which could be part of a screening program are listed.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

Compiled by ODELL A. WATSON

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INTRODUCTION

Identification of students to be included in gifted and talented classes/programs in the public schools of North Carolina has been a major concern of numerous school personnel as well as the Gifted and Talented Section of the Division for Exceptional Children.

Many efforts have been made at the local and state levels to establish procedures and policies which would allow us to identify our most able and talented students. The information herein may serve as a guide to determine numerous talents which students may possess, including academic talents.

This publication is intended to provide a number of techniques which may be adapted and/or modified to meet the specific needs of local administrative units.

May I express my appreciation to Miss Cornelia Tongue, Miss Libby Broome, and Miss Henri Fisher, Coordinator and Consultants, respectively of the Gifted and Talented Section of the Division for Exceptional Children for their suggestions and assistance in preparing this publication. I also wish to express my appreciation to Mrs. Jane Ferrell and Miss Rebecca Lucy for typing and assembling this publication.

Odell Watson



The selection of students to participate in gifted and talented programs should be carried out in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Division for Exceptional Children, as amended by the State Board of Education. While these rules and regulations specify the statewide criteria which are to be utilized in the selection process, they do not limit the identification process which local units or schools may employ.

Listed are some possible ways which may be helpful to teachers in their search for gifted and talented students in their respective classrooms (school).

Teacher-Observation and Recommendation Sheet

- Step 1 Teacher(3) of the child's previous or present grade level may be asked to list (5 minority, 10 non-minority) children in their classes who may be:
 - a. most creative children, or
 - b. children with most leadership, or
 - c. most scientifically oriented children, or
 - d. children who do the best critical thinking, or
 - e. most <u>able children</u> who are the most inconsiderate of others in terms of behavior, or
 - f. child who does the most detailed planning and can follow through with plans
 - q. the ones who take unlike ideas and create a new idea.
- Step 2 Together with principal, guidance staff, etc. compare lists to determine number of frequencies in which names appear and list these.
- Step 3 Look at the achievement and intelligence score data on students listed to this point to compare recommendations with past performances.
- Step 4 Make recommendations as necessary based on findings keeping in mind racial composition.

Teacher Made Observational Checklist

1. Checklist Based on Characteristics and/or Traits Common to Gifted

Teachers of gifted and talented students in a given school or school system are encouraged to combine their efforts and develop their own observational checklists. Listing of characteristics and traits common to gifted students may be helpful in establishing checklist.

2. Checklist Based on Intellectual Behavior Contributing to Creativity

Teachers of gifted and talented students may give consideration to developing checklists based on pupil behavior which contribute to creativity. Intellectual



pupil behavior which contribute to creativity include the following:

Thinking Behaviors (cognitive)

- . Fluent thinking the ability to think the most by producing a number of questions, ideas, solutions or alternatives.
- . Flexible thinking the ability to take different approaches by producing a variety of questions, ideas, solutions or alternatives.
- . Original thinking the ability to think of novel or unique approaches by producing ideas, questions, solutions or alternatives that others do not think of.
- . Elaborative thinking the ability to embellish or expand upon ideas, questions, solutions or alternatives.
- 3. Checklist Based on Non-Intellectual Behaviors Contributing to Creativity

Teachers of gifted and talented students may give consideration to developing checklists based on pupil behavior which contribute to creativity. Non-intellectual pupil behaviors which contribute to creativity include the following:

Feeling Behaviors (affective)

- . Curiosity the thirst to be inquisitive and want to know. To toy with an idea and try it on for size. Willingness to question, explore and follow an inclination just to see what might happen.
- . Imagination the power to wonder or feel intuitive about something that has never happened to the child. To visualize and build images of things or places never ventured into. The ability to dream in a world of fantasy.
- . Complexity the challenge to appreciate intricate problems or ideas. To seek order out of disorder and delve into gaps that exist between how things are and how things might be.
- . Risk-taking the courage to make a guess, be different or take a dare. To be able to function without structure and face failure, mistakes and criticism.



Frank E. Williams, <u>Identifying and Measuring Creative Potential: A Total Creativity Program for Individualizing and Humanizing the Learning Process</u>. Educational Technology Publication, Englewood Cliffs, 1972.

SCALE FOR RATING BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIOR STUDENTS*

Name		
Schoo1	Grade	Age Yrs. Mos.
Teacher of person completi		Yrs. Mos.
How long have you known th	is child?	Months.
characteristics in the are The items are derived from of gifted and creative per amount of individual differ therefore, the profiles ar scales should be considered you have observed the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according 1. If you have observed 3. If you have observed 3. If you have observed the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors, the scores obtayield a total score. Pleas appropriate place according to the prestour dimensions of the insubehaviors	as of learning, motivation the research literature of sons. It should be pointed from the likely to vary a great of separately and should resence or absence of each clutrument represent relative ined from the separate scales read the statements can	this population; and deal. Each item in the effect the degree to which haracteristic. Since the ely different sets of ales should not be summed to refully and place an X in the of values. haracteristic. casionally. a considerable degree.
Space has been provided fo	ollowing each item for you	r comments.
SCORING. Separate scores follows:	for each of the three dime	ensions may be obtained as
Multiply the Column To "Weighted Column Tot	n Totals across to obtain le.	ach column to obtain the
Learning Characteri	stics	
Motivational Charac	teristics	
Creativity Characte	ristics	
Leadership Characte	ristics	

^{*}Dorothy F. Syphers, <u>Gifted and Talented Children: Practical Programming</u>
<u>for Teachers and Principals</u>. <u>Arlington</u>, <u>Virginia</u>: <u>The Council for Exceptional Children</u>, 1411 South Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 900.



PART I: LEARNING CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Has unusually advanced vocabulary for age or grade level; uses terms in a meaningful way; has verbal behavior characterized by "richness" of expression, elaboration, and fluency.
- 2. Possesses a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics (beyond the usual interests of youngsters his age).
- 3. Has quick mastery and recall of factual information.
- 4. Has rapid insight into cause-effect relationships; tries to discover the how and why of things; asks many provocative questions (as distinct from information or factual questions); wants to know what makes things (or people) "tick."
- 5. Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalizations about events, people, or things; looks for similarities and differences in events, people, and things.
- 6. Is a keen and alert observer; usually "sees more" or "gets more" out of a story, film, etc. than others.
- 7. Reads a great deal on his own; usually prefers adult level books; does not avoid difficult material; may show a preference for biography, autobiography, encyclopedias, and atlases.
- 8. Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into its respective parts; reasons things out for himself; sees logical and common sense answers.

Column Total

Weight

Weighted Column Total

TOTAL

1 3 4

PART II: MOTIVATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Becomes absorbed and truly involved in certain topics or problems; is persistent in seeking task completion. (It is sometimes difficult to get him to move on to another topic.)

...

2	3	4
:		
		I _

^{*1--}Seldom or never

²⁻⁻Occasionally

³⁻⁻Considerably

⁴⁻⁻Almost always

- 2. Is easily bored with routine tasks.
- 3. Needs little external motivation to follow through in work that initially excites him.
- 4. Strives toward perfection; is self critical; is not easily satisfied with his own speed or products.
- 5. Prefers to work independently; requires little direction from teachers.
- 6. Is interested in many "adult" problems such as religion, politics, sex, race--more than usual for age level.
- 7. Often is self assertive (sometimes e. 1 aggressive); stubborn in his beliefs.
- 8. Likes to organize and bring structure to things, people, and situations.
- 9. Is quite concerned with right and wrong, good and bad; often evaluates and passes judgment on events, people, and things.

Column Total

Weight

Weighted Column Total

TOTAL

1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

PART III: CREATIVITY CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Displays a great deal of curiosity about many things; is constantly asking questions about anything and everything.
- 2. Generates a large number of ideas or solutions to problems and questions; often offers unusual ("way cut"), unique, clever responses.
- 3. Is uninhibited in expressions of opinion; is sometimes radical and spirited in disagreement; is tenacious.
- 4. Is a high risk taker; is adventurous and speculative.
- 5. Displays a good deal of intellectual playfulness; fantasizes; imagines ("I wonder what would happen if"); manipulates ideas (i.e., changes, elaborates upon them); is often concerned with adapting, improving, and modifying institutions, objects, and systems.
- 6. Displays a keen sense of humor and sees humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others.

1	2	3	4
_			



- 7. Is unusually aware of his impulses and more open to the irrational in himself (freer expression of feminine interest for boys, greater than usual amount of independence for girls); shows emotional sersitivity.
- 8. Is sensitive to beauty; attends to aesthetic characteristics of things.
- 9. Is nonconforming; accepts disorder; is not interested in details; is individualistic; does not fear being different.
- 10. Criticizes constructively; is unwilling to accept authoritarian pronouncements without critical examination.

Column Total

Weight

Weighted Column Total

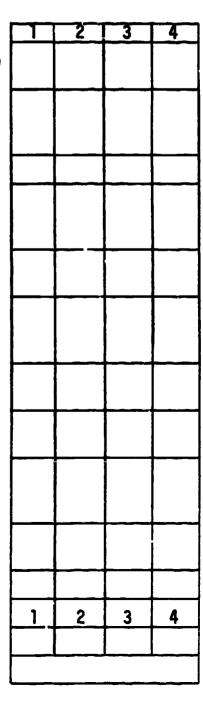
TOTAL

	2	3	4
		-	
1	2	3	4

PART IV: LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

- 1. Carries responsibility well; can be counted on to do what he has promised and usually does it well.
- 2. Is self confident with children his own age as well as adults; seems comfortable when asked to show his work to the class.
- 3. Seems to be well liked by his classmates.
- 4. Is cooperative with teacher and classmates; tends to avoid bickering and is generally easy to get along with.
- 5. Can express himself well; has good verbal facility and is usually well understood.
- 6. Adapts readily to new situations; is flexible in thought and action and does not seem disturbed when the normal routine is changed.
- 7. Seems to enjoy being around other people; is sociable and prefers not to be alone.
- 8. Tends to dominate others when they are around; generally directs the activity in which is is involved.
- 9. Participates in most social activities connected with the school; can be counted on to be there if anyone is.
- 10. Excels in athletic activities; is well coordinated and enjoys all sorts of athletic games.

Column Total Weight Weighted Column Total TOTAL





STUDENT-PEER NOMINATION CHECKLIST

Teachers of Gifted and Talented students may give consideration to utilizing student peer nomination checklist in which students list specific data relative to their friends (those who are closest friends, those with whom they walk home or ride the bus, those who are seen only at school).

Students may be asked to utilize their knowledge of their "friends" to help them list to:

- a. most creative and original classmate(s), or
- b. classmate(s) with most leadership, or
- c. most scientifically oriented classmate(s), or
- d. classmate(s) who does the best critical thinking, or
- e. etc.

Note: Statements may have to be modified and/or adapted to the level of students being served.



CHECKLIST FOR KINDERGARTEN*

Directions: Please place an X in the space beside each question which BEST describes the pupil.

A.	Language			NO
	1.	The pupil is able to read.		
	2.	The pupil understands his relationship in such words as up-down, top-bottom, big-little, far-near.		
В.	Psy	chomotor Abilities		
	1.	The pupil exhibits coordination by being able to bounce a ball or tie his shoelaces.	-	-
	2.	The pupil can complete the missing parts of an incomplete familiar picture by drawing the parts in their proper perspective.		
C.	Mat	:hematics		
	1.	The pupil can repeat five digits forward and reversed.		
	2.	The pupil recognizes and understands the value of coins (penny, nickle, dime and quarter).	-	
D.	Cre	eativity		
	1.	The pupil interprets stories or pictures in his own words.		
•	2.	The pupil displays curiosity by asking many questions or by other types of behavior.		
E.	Ger	neral Characteristics		
	1.	The pupil readily adapts to new situations; he is flexible in thought and action; he seems undisturbed when the normal routine is changed.	***************************************	
	2.	The pupil seeks new tasks and activities.		
	3.	The pupil tends to dominate others and generally direct the activity in which he is involved.	***************************************	e de la compa



^{*}Taken and adapted from materials prepared for Dade County, Florida Public Schools, Mr. James Miley, Coordinator for the Gifted.

CHECKLIST FOR FIRST GRADE PUPILS*

זוע	describes the pupil.		•
	describes the pupir.	YES	NO
1.	The pupil reads two years above grade level.		
2.	The pupil recognizes the number and sequences of steps in a specified direction.	ing photograph	
3.	The pupil forms sets and subsets.	-	
4.	The pupil understands the concepts of place value.	****	
5.	The pupil recognizes the properties of right angles.		
6.	The pupil can create a short story from a familiar subject.		
7.	The pupil interprets stories and pictures in his own words.		
8.	The pupil questions critically.		
9.	The pupil demonstrates flexibility in his thinking pattern and the ability to communicate to others.		
10.	The pupil is self-confident with pupils his own age, and/or adults; seems comfortable when asked to show his work to class.		
11.	The pupil has a well-developed vocabulary.		
12.	The pupil has a vivid imagination and enjoys sharing his "stories" with others.		



^{*}Taken and adapted from materials prepared for Pade County, Florida Public Schools, Mr. James Miley, Coordinator for the Gifted.

CHECKLIST FOR GRADES 2-6*

Directions: Please place an X in the space beside each question which BEST describes the pupil.

A.	1. Learning Characteristics		YES	NO
	1.	Has verbal behavior characterized by "richness" of expression, elaboration, and fluency.		
	2.	Possesses a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics beyond the usual interests of youngsters his age.		
	3.	Has a ready grasp of underlying principles and can quickly make valid generalizations about events, people or things; looks for similarities and differences.		·
	4.	Tries to understand complicated material by separating it into respective parts; reasons things out for himself; sees logical and common sense answers.		
В.	Mot	ivational Characteristics		
	1.	Is easily bored with routine tasks.		
	2.	Prefers to work independently; needs minimal direction from teachers.		
	3.	Has tendency to organize people, things and situations.		
	4.	Is positive and zealous in his beliefs.		
c.	Lea	dership Characteristics		
	1.	Carries responsibility well; foilows through with tasks and usually does them well.		
	2.	Seems respected by his classmates.		ستبيني
	3.	Is self-confident with children his own age as well as adults; seems comfortable when asked to show his work to the class.		
	4.	Is shy, responding generally when called upon.		
	5.	Is "bossy" with his peers.		



^{*}Taken and adapted from materials prepared for Dade County, Florida Public Schools, Mr. James Miley, Coordinator for the Gifted.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TALENTED PUPILS-CHECKLIST* (Can be used at any grade level)

Sch	001	Teacher		
Dire	ections:	Place in X in the space beside each question which best the pupil.	descr	i bes
Pup	il's Name_	Date	- VE0	
1.	Displays	a great deal of curiosity about many things.	YES	NO
2.	Generates	ideas or solutions to problems and questions.		
3.		/ aspects of one thing; fantasizes, imagines, manipulates laborates.		
4.	Applies	ideas.		
ε.	Is a high	risk taker; is adventurous and speculative.		
€.	Displays	a keen sense of humor.		
7.	Is sensi	tive to beauty; attends to aesthetic characteristics.		
8.	Predicts	from present ideas.		
9.	Demonstra	ates unusual ability in painting/drawing.		
10.	Exhibits	unusual ability in sculpturing or clay modeling.		
11.	Shows uni	usual ability in handicrafts.		
12.	Provides	evidences of unusual ability in use of tools.		
13.	Shows uni	usual ability in instrumental music.		
14.	Demonstra	ates unusual ability in vocal music.		
15.	Indicates	s special interest in music appreciation.		
16.	Displays	ability in role playing and drama.		
17.	Demonstra	ates ability to dramatize stories.		
18.	Shows ab	ility in oral expression.		
19.		ates unusual ability in written expression: creating plays, etc.		
20.	Shows every	idence of independent reading for information and		
21.	Demonstra	ates ability in dancing; toe, tap, creative.		



		YES	NC
22.	Displays mechanical interest and unusual ability.	•	
23.	Shows unusual skill and coordination in his gross muscular movements such as ball playing, running.		
	movements such as part praying, ruming.	-	



^{*}Taker and adapted from materials prepared for Dade County, Florida Public Schools, Mr. James Miley, Coordinator for the Gifted.

STUDENT'S CLASSROOM INVENTORY*

You have talents. You are aware of some of the talents which your classmates have and some may be hidden. After you have written the names of each of your classmates in the first column, please write in the second column the talent which you feel each person has. If any of your classmates have a talent which is unknown to you or one which cannot be determined by you, place a check () beside the name of that person in the third column.

Name of Your Classmates	Talent He or She Has	Hidden Talent
1.		
2.		
etc.		

STUDENT INDIVIDUAL TALENT INVENTORY

You have talents. Some of them your friends or parents or teacher knows. Some only you know. Please list all talents you have and check whether others know it or not.

Name: Talent I Know I Have	Other People Know It	No One Else Knows It
1.		
2.		
3. etc.		

*Through the Courtesy of: Mrs. Betty Stovall, Director Talent Development Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools



CHECKLIST FOR RECOMMENDING GIFTED AND CREATIVE STUDENTS* (Middle Grades and Above)

Student	s Name	School	Grade	Homeroom
Teacher'	s Name		School To	eym
To the Teachers:				
We need your help. We're looking for children in your classroom who you feel might be more able than their test scores indicate. The following list of characteristics, while by no means all inclusive, represents traits found in gifted and creative children. If any student in your class is described by at least twelve (12) of the items on this list, you may want to watch him more carefully for possible inclusion in the gifted program. Those items which are most applicable should be double checked. Will you help us by respending to the following checklist for the top students in your class. Supporting information and comments should be written on the back of this form.				
1.	Is an avid reader.			
2.	Has received an award in	science, art, literature.		
3.	Has avid interest in sci	ence or literature.		
4.	Very alert, rapid answer	s.		
5.	Is outstanding in math.			
6.	Has a wide range of inte	rests.		
7.	Is very secure emotional	ly.		
8.	Is venturesome, anxious	to do new things.		
9.	Tends to dominate peers	or situations.		
10.	Readily makes money on v	arious projects or activiti	esis an	entrepreneur.
11.	Individualisticlikes t	o work by self.		
12.	Is sensitive to feelings	of othersor to situation	s .	
13.	Has confidence in self.			
14.	Needs little outside con	troldisciplines self.		
15.	Adept at visual art expr	ession.		
16.	Resourcefulcan solve p	roblems by ingentous method	s.	
17.	Creative in thoughts, ne etc. (not artistically).	w ideas, seeing association	s, innovat	tions,



18.	Body or facial gestures very expressive.
19.	Impatientquick to anger or anxious to complete a task.
20.	Great desire to excel even to the point of cheating.
21.	Colorful verbal expressions.
22.	Tells very imaginative stories.
23.	Frequently interrupts others when they are talking.
24.	Frank in appraisal of adults.
25.	Has mature sense of humor (puns, associations, etc.).
26.	Is inquisitive.
27.	Takes a close look at things.
28.	Is eager to tell others about discoveries.
29.	Can show relationships among apparently unrelated ideas.
30.	Shows excitement in voice about discoveries.
31.	Has a tendency to lose awareness of time.



^{*}San Francisco Unified School District Programs for Mentally Gifted Minors, William B. Cummings, Supervisor.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

While the Division for Exceptional Children, Gifre, and Talented Section does not recommend specific tests, listed are tests which may be considered part of the screening program for identification of gifted and talented students.

Cognitive Tests for Measuring Thinking

- I. Convergent Thinking
 - A. Achievement Tests
 - . California Test of Basic Skills (grades 1-8)
 - . Iowa Tests of Basic Skills
 - . Metropolitan Achievement Test (grades 1-12)
 - . SRA Achievement Tests (grades 1-9)
 - . Stanford Achievement Tests (grades 1-9)
 - . Cognitive Abilities Tests (grades K-8)
 - B. Intelligence Tests
 - . Stanford-Binêt Intelligence Scale (grades K-12)
 - . Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) (age 5-15)
 - . Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (age 16)

 - . Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (grades K-12)
 . California Tests of Mental Maturity (grades 4-12)
 - . Wechsier Adult Intelligence Scale (MAIS) (age 16 +)
- II. Divergent Thinking
 - A. Creativity Tests
 - . Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking--Verbal (grades 4-12)
 - . Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking--Figural (grades 1-12)
 - . Guilford's Test of Creativity--Verbal, Figural (grades 7-12)

Affective Tests for Measuring Feeling

- I. Convergent Tests
 - A. Character and Personality
 - . Early School Personality Questionnaire (grades 1-3)
 - . Children's Personality Questionnaire (grades 3-6)
 - . Junior-Senior High Personality Questionnaire (grades 6-12)
 - . California Test of Personality (grades K-12)
 - . Piers-Harris Self Observation Scale
 - B. Self Concept
 - . "How Do You Really Feel About Yourself" Inventory (grades 4-21)
 - . Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (grades 5-12)
 - . Self Concept as a Learner Elementary Scale (grades 3-12) Secondary Scale (grades 7-12)

 . California Test of Psychology (grades K-12)
- II. Divergent Tests
 - . Barron-Welsh Art Scale of the Welsh Figure Preference Test (grades 1-12
 - . Personality Rating Scale (grades K-12)
 - . Preschool Academic Sentiment Scale (grades K-1)



Tests of Cultural Differences

- 1. Abbreviated Binet for the Disadvantaged (ABDA) developed by Dr. Catherine Bruch and Dr. E. Paul Torrance, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.*
- 2. Biographical Inventory (secondary leve!) developed by Institute of Behavioral Research in Creativity, Salt Lake City, Utah.*



^{*}Note: These tests are currently being validated and will be made available at a later date.