

## Gifted Learners in an Integrated MTSS

We will examine an integrated multi-tiered system of supports that is inclusive of gifted students. Join us as we delve into how instruction, aligned with the science of reading, can support the depth, breadth, and complexity of instruction, and be meaningfully used to support our students who are gifted in reading and writing

#### Today's Objectives



Detail the importance of serving gifted students in a comprehensive MTSS framework



Consider how to intensify core instruction for gifted learners



Outline professional learning needs and instructional implications

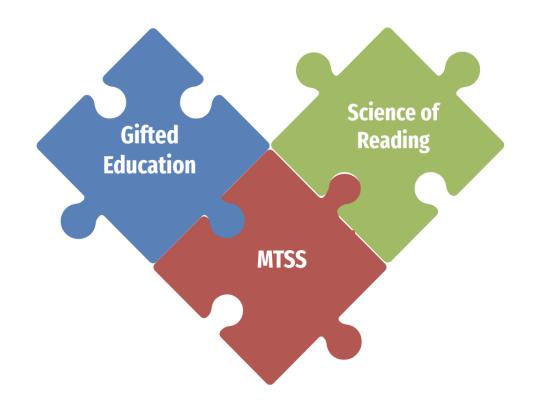


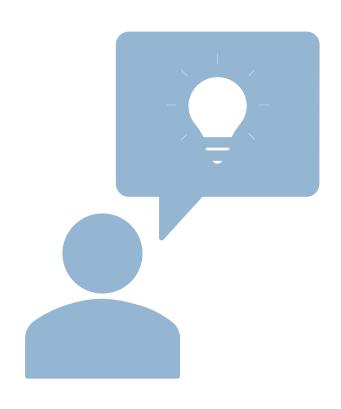


Detail the importance of serving gifted students in a comprehensive MTSS framework

#### Gifted Education & Reading Science: Let's Chat

What do we know? What can we *learn*?





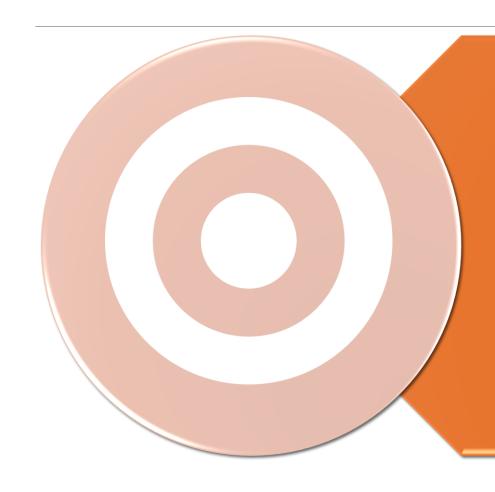
# One Word that Comes to Mind

WHAT IS ONE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF GIFTEDNESS?



#### Common Questions We All Hear

#### **Our Collective Aim**



"We are not trying to close the achievement gap between the weakest and the strongest students in our classrooms by preventing the strongest students from growing. We are trying to close the achievement gap between struggling students and grade-level goals while also maximizing growth for our strongest readers and writers."

#### What to Keep in Mind:

#### National Association for Gifted Children: Common Characteristics of Gifted Individuals

Because gifted children demonstrate greater maturity in some domains over others, they may be at greater risk for specific kinds of social-emotional difficulties if their needs are not met."

"These aspects may include heightened awareness, anxiety, perfectionism, stress, issues with peer relationships, and concerns with identity and fit."

Source: Clark, B. (2008). Growing up gifted (7th ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

#### Characteristics of Gifted Adults

**Fiedler (2015)** has pointed out that there are developmental stages of gifted adulthood; she refers to these stages as seekers (18-25), voyagers (25-35), explorers (35-50), navigators (50-65), actualizers (65-80), cruisers (80+).

Gifted adults tend to show the three primary traits of *complexity*, *intensity*, and *drive* (Jacobsen, 1999). Each of these can be collapsed, exaggerated, or *balanced* (the goal!).

According to **Corten (2021)**, gifted adults at work tend to show heightened powers of observation, vulnerability, a combination of talents, uniquely innovative ideas, and a tendency to "think and speak too fast for other people to keep up, often without knowing" (p. 22). Multipotentiality (<a href="https://puttylike.com/">https://puttylike.com/</a>) and imposter syndrome are common.



Continuum of Supports: A Tiered Structure for Instruction and Interventions



Team-Based Leadership



Comprehensive Screening and Assessment System



Data-Based Decision Making and Improvement Cycles



Evidence-Based Practices and High-Quality Instruction for All Learners

## What is a Multi-Tiered System of Supports?

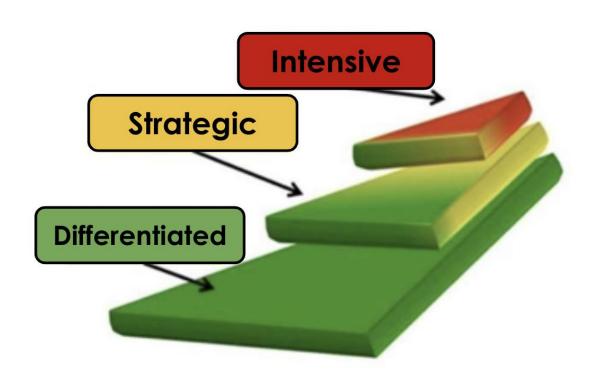
## What is the Purpose of an Integrated MTSS?

At regional and local level, an integrated MTSS provides a comprehensive framework that concentrates on strength-based approaches to teaching and learning, identifying challenges early, intervening rapidly and with precision.

Districts ensure that all teachers receive high-quality instructional materials and training to support them in crafting learning experiences that provide equitable access to grade-level content for all students.

All learners, regardless of disability, English language proficiency status, socioeconomic status, race, or academic performance can receive services in Tiers 1, 2, and 3.

MTSS provides both academic and wellness supports throughout the multi-tiered system of supports.



### Multi-Tiered System of Supports: The Purpose

"The multi-tiered system of supports structure provides a framework for supporting learners based on their unique needs. It can guide staff in designing effective instruction and appropriate interventions as part of school improvement efforts. A multi-tiered system of supports for reading includes full access to grade-level instruction for all learners that is differentiated and designed to meet the needs of all learners (Tier 1) and additional targeted (Tier 2) and/or intensive intervention (Tier 3) for learners experiencing difficulties" (Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement, 2018).

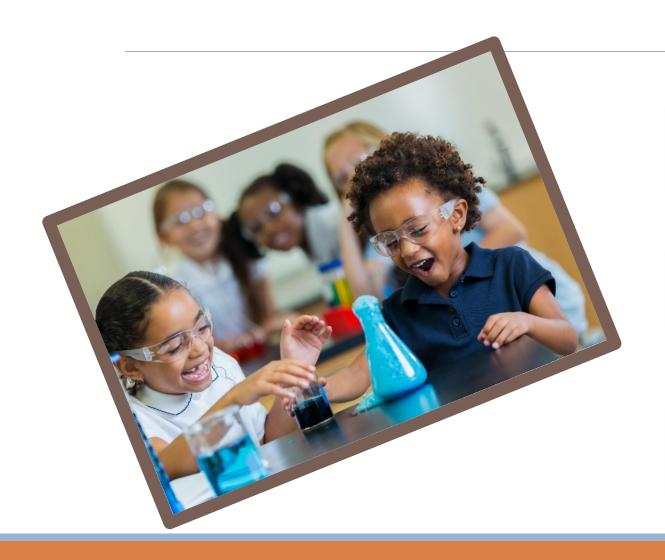
Instructors provide full access to Tier 1 core curriculum for all students in grades pre-K through 12.

To support students ages birth to 5 years, specialized learning educational teams require knowledge and skills across all areas of early development (academic, behavioral, social, and developmental).

Tier 1 supports the integration of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) which includes universal behavioral and wellness supports related to school climate and culture, mental and physical health, attendance, and family engagement.

## What are Integrated MTSS Tiers?

#### **Characteristics of Students Who are Gifted**



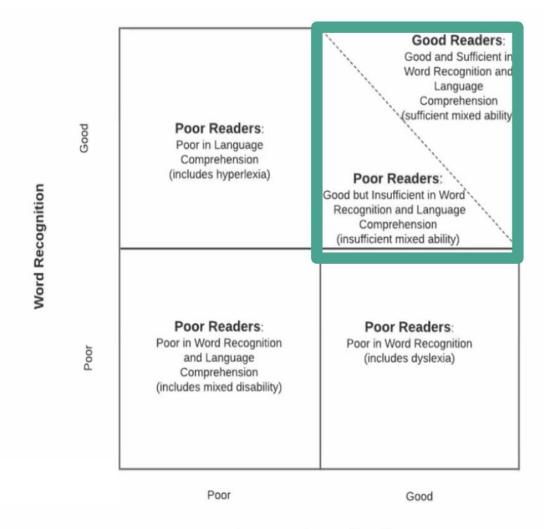
Ability to quickly recognize patterns and acquire skills

Strong memory & need less repetition

Ability to make cross content connections

#### **Good Readers**

..."to be a good reader, one needs generally to be more than just "above average" in subcomponent skills" (Hoover, 2003).



#### **Language Comprehension**

Note: The dashed line in the upper right quadrant only approximates the curvilinear delineation between poor and good readers as defined by the product of the two subcomponents.

#### What Does Integrated MTSS Look Like?



An <u>integrated</u> system means a continuum of evidence-based, systemwide practices with technically sound assessments used to address students' needs.



Continuous, data-based monitoring informs decision-making about each student's progress.



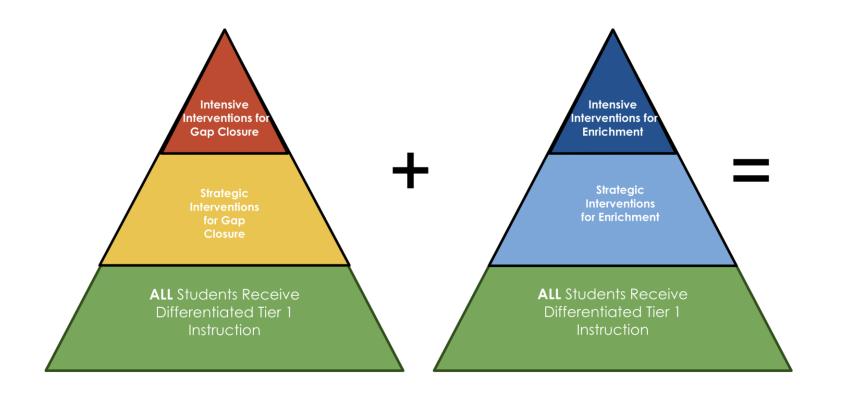
Effective communication across support teams is necessary to sustain collaborative implementation of teaching methodologies and integration of supports, services, scaffolds and interventions.

#### MTSS & Gifted Education

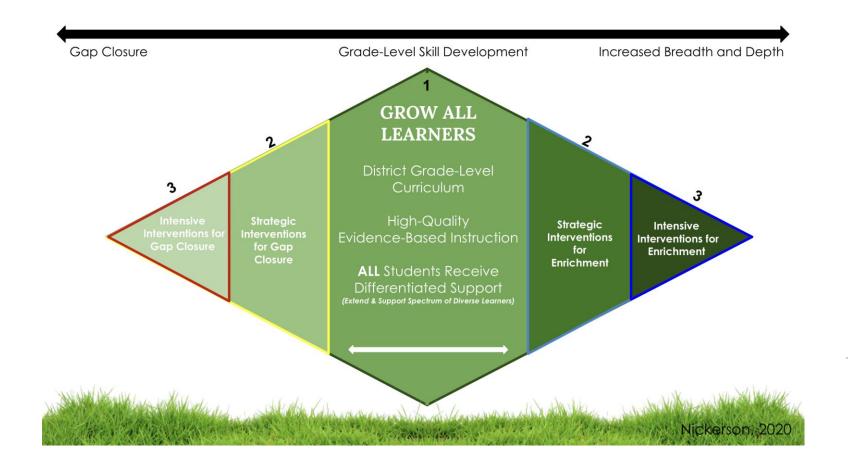
In 2009, the Association for the Gifted (TAG), a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), released a position paper asserting that the Rtl model should be expanded to encompass the needs of gifted and twice-exceptional students.

#### **Recommendations:**

- screening for strengths
- progress monitoring
- collaborative problem-solving
- standard protocols
- strong, differentiated core instruction
- access to advanced curricula
- tiered supports and services
- data-driven decision-making
- strengths-based professional development



#### An Expanded MTSS Model



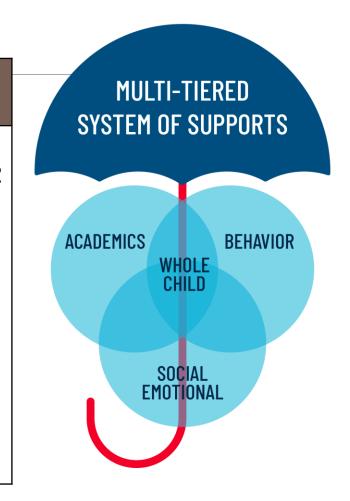
# Two Sides of the Same Continuum

#### Opportunities for Gifted Learners

#### **MTSS Fosters Opportunities MTSS Provides Supportive Structures Opportunities exist to:** Learning experiences should be focus on services rather than labels; developed and articulated across K-12 differentiate instruction and intensify for systematic talent development. enrichment; • improve services for students with Gifted students benefit from complex strengths and needs (e.g., differentiated guidance and twice-exceptional students, counseling services and deliberate gifted multilingual learners); cultivation of intrapersonal skills. close opportunity gaps and reduce disproportionality; and

maximize growth and prevent

underachievement.



#### Questions Answered by Assessment

Universal Screening Assessment	Diagnostic Assessment	Progress Monitoring Assessment	Outcome Assessment
Who needs support?	What support is needed?	Is the support working?	Has the support increased student outcomes?

**Problem Identification** 



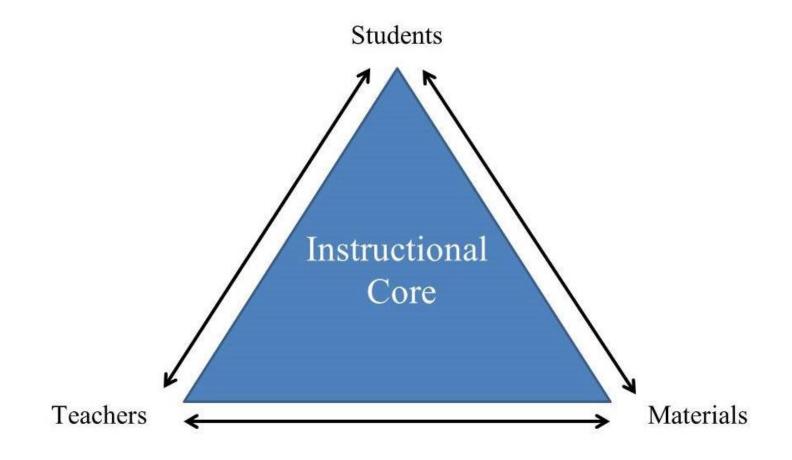
Problem Analysis



Plan Development and Implementation



Plan Evaluation





### Consider how to intensify core instruction for gifted learners

#### Gifted Multidisciplinary Team



#### Who is around the table?

- general educator(s)
- gifted intervention specialist
- gifted coordinator
- school psychologist
- principal
- parent(s)/guardian(s)
- intervention specialist (if 2e)
- TESOL teacher (if multilingual)
- school counselor
- OT, SLP, or other relevant personnel

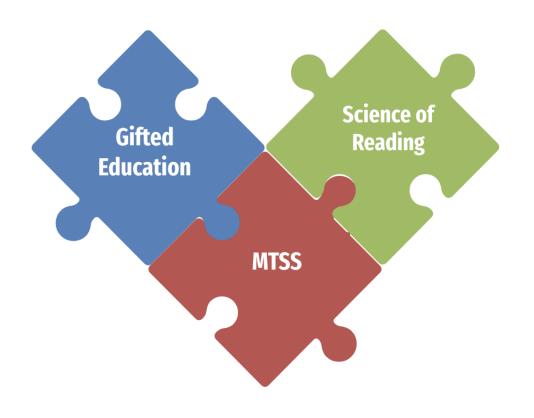
#### Integrated MTSS Guides the Work

- What should our students learn?
- How will we know that our students have learned it?
- What will we do when our students have not learned it?
- What will we do when our students have already learned it?



#### Gifted Education & Reading Science: Let's Chat

In which ways does our system need to change to support a tiered model for advanced learners?





Science of Reading
The Evidence Base



Structured Literacy
The Application of Knowledge



Consider how to intensify core instruction for gifted learners

Assessment	Instructional Context	Instructional Content
<ul> <li>Use Data:</li> <li>Screening</li> <li>Diagnostic</li> <li>Progress-monitoring</li> <li>Outcome assessment</li> <li>Formative assessment</li> </ul> Document student progress and teach diagnostically.	Match the appropriate level of instruction to:	Teach the essential components of literacy instruction following recommendations from scientifically-based reading research:  • Phonemic Awareness • Phonics • Fluency • Vocabulary • Comprehension • Writing

# Bringing It All Together

#### Instructional Intensification

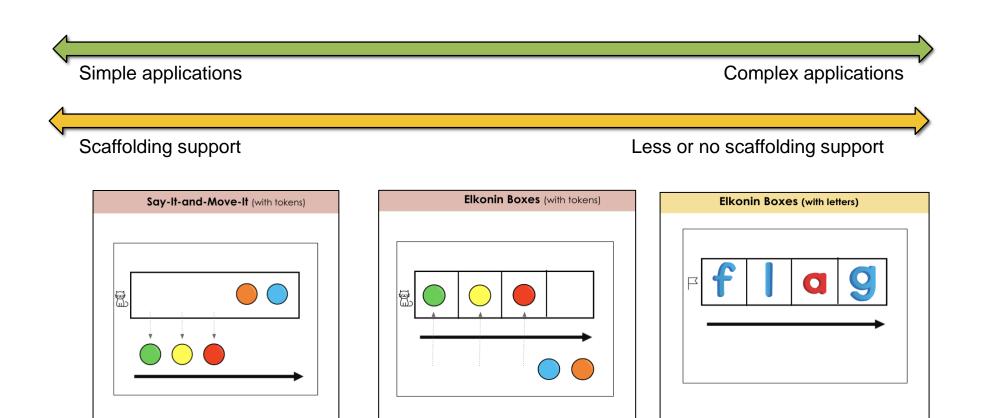
More Structure	Core Support	More Complexity	
<ul> <li>Scaffold instructional routines</li> <li>Break down tasks step by step</li> <li>More concrete presentation</li> <li>Model using think alouds</li> <li>Model using guided questioning</li> <li>Give examples and non-examples</li> <li>More frequent student response</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Teacher-led instruction</li> <li>Instructional routines</li> <li>Concepts directly taught</li> <li>Clearly explained</li> <li>Skills are modeled (I do, we do, you do)</li> <li>Prompt feedback</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Provide opportunities for implicit learning</li> <li>Provide multi-step directions</li> <li>Provide opportunities to grapple with abstract or complex ideas (DOK)</li> <li>Foster greater independence/choice</li> <li>Work at a faster pace</li> </ul>	

Adapted from Ohio's K-5 Dyslexia Course

Constrained Skills (limited scope and can be mastered with explicit and systematic instruction).	Unconstrained Skills (unbounded scope and can be developed and improved throughout one's lifetime).
Print awareness	Oral language
Phonemic awareness	Vocabulary
Alphabetic knowledge	Comprehension
Spelling	Composition
Fluency	Critical thinking

#### **Analyzing Data for All Learners**

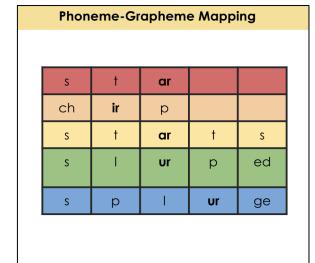
#### Task-Application Continuum: PA & Phonics

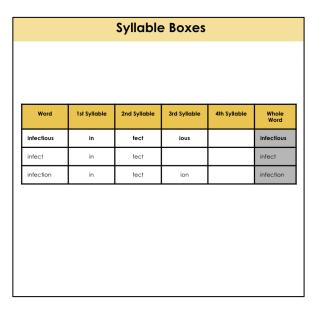


## Task-Application Continuum: Phonics & Word Study

Simple applications

Complex applications

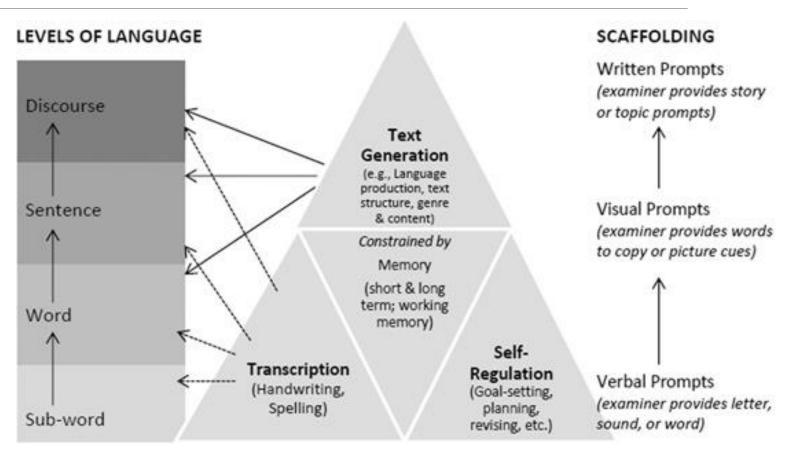




Morpheme Boxes					
Word	1st Syllable	2nd Syllable	3rd Syllable	4th Syllable	Whole Word
segregate	se	greg	ate		segregate
segregation	se	greg	at{e}	ion	segregation

#### Writing may be the "Apex" Skill

Where are we in terms of building knowledge, allocating time, & securing resources to support writing instruction?



Ritchey, K. *et al.* (2016). Indicators of Fluent Writing in Beginning Writers. In: Cummings, K., Petscher, Y. (eds)





Professional learning needs and instructional implications

#### **Professional Learning**

#### Continuous and Comprehensive Learning

- Needs of GT students
- Evidence-based literacy practices
- Robust MTSS model
- Intervention/enrichment options

#### Leadership Support

- Support from buildingand districtadministration
- Time allotted for collaboration, planning, and documentation

#### **High Quality Instruction**

- High quality differentiated
   Tier 1 instruction
- Intensified supports to address strengths and needs

Ohio's Introduction to the Science of Reading Pathways on the Learning Management System

Consider using Ohio's Science of Reading Modules in readers K-5 and grades 6-12 for discussion points on supporting advanced learners in reading.

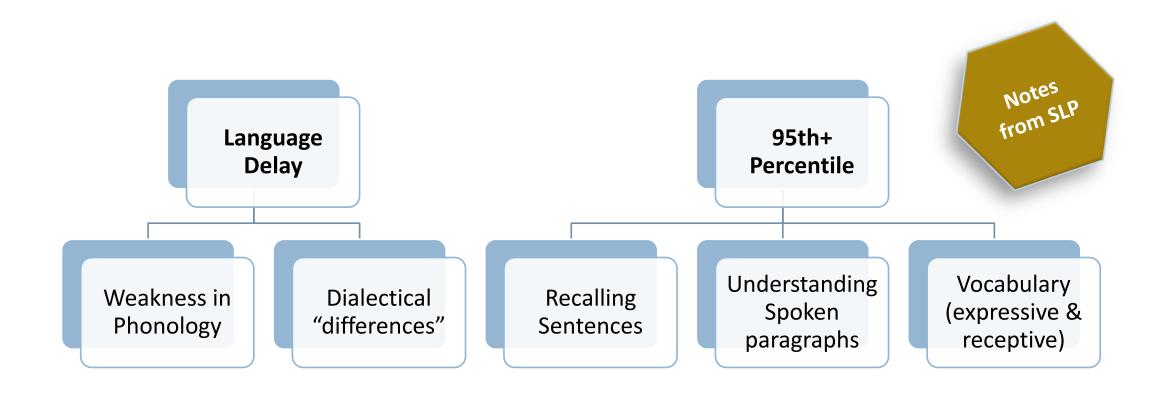
## Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca

GIFTED ID: SPECIFIC ACADEMIC ABILITY (READING & MATH)

99TH PERCENTILE IN READING

TEACHER NOTES:
"READING 2-3 GRADE
LEVELS ABOVE
TYPICAL PEERS

# Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca Early Learning Journey

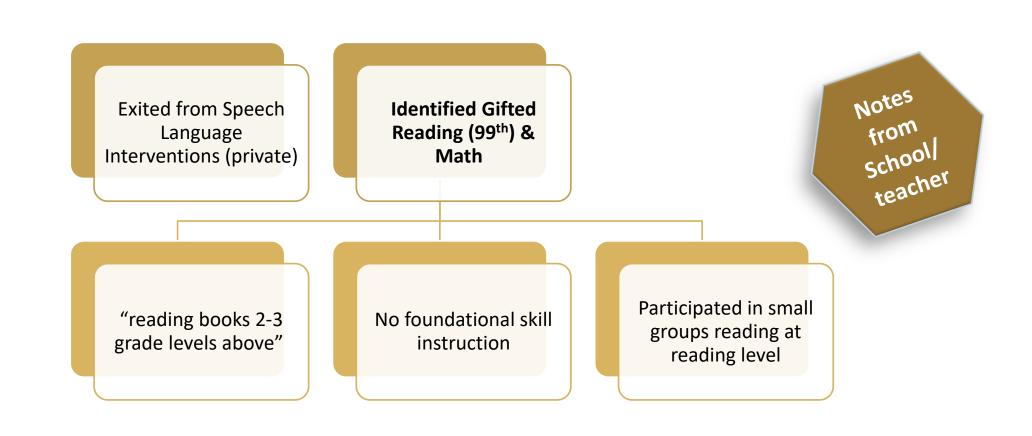


## Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca

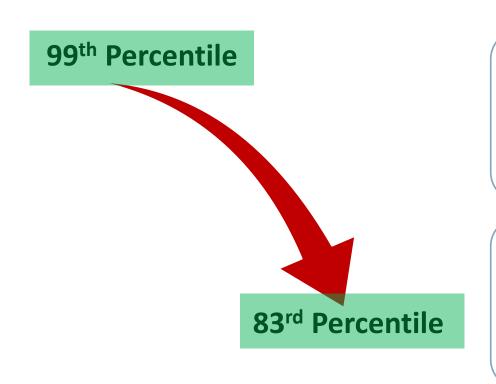


- focused on production of initial and final /f/ and initial /s/ in words.
- Produced /f/ initial with 70% accuracy with model. Produced initial /s/ with visual signal and verbal model with 60% accuracy
- Produced initial /f/ with 80% accuracy cued with pictures. Produced initial /s/ with visual signal with verbal model -70% accuracy with approx.
- Produced /f/ initial with 100% accuracy today with less stopping patterns. Produced final /s/ with initial model.
- Produced /f/ initial with 90% accuracy with fewer stopping patterns. Produced initial /s/ with 80% accuracy with faded model and visual signal. Produced /sh/ in isolation and /CV and CVC syllables
- Produced /f/ in initial position with words in all trials Produced /s/ in initial position with words in all trials
- Produced /f/ and /s/in all positions with 100% accuracy in spontaneous production.

# Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca Identification & Beyond



# Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca Where is Rebecca Now?



Notes from School

- "Doesn't require any phonics";
   "Small group instruction at her level"
- "Eloquent reader"
- "Hurries through written work"

Notes from Rebecca

- "I like to read, but not at school"
- "Spelling lists are stupid"
- "Writing takes too long"

## 15 Chewed crawl pet Wishes Jdig thorne 4 rob 5 hope Shouted 8 Wast growl 7 gum 8 sted third 23 9 510 camped 10 Shine tryles claping 1 dream blade 26 wniteing coach

# Rebecca's Spelling Inventory

"frite"

"thorne"

"Tryies"

"Claping"

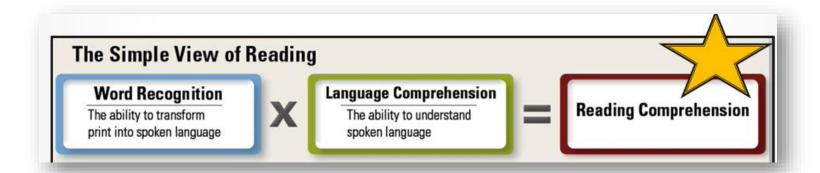
"Writeing"

## Importance of the SVR for Rebecca

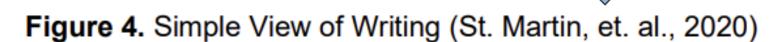
Rebecca's instruction at school seemed to ignore explicit instruction in **Word Recognition** 



Rebecca's instruction at school seemed lean into *Some* aspects, of Language Comprehension



# The Simple View of Writing



**Transcription** Skills

**Translation** Skills

Skilled Writing Expression

Foundational Writing Skills – handwriting, spelling, punctuation, letter formation

Composition Skills organization, text structures, vocabul ary, syntax, topic knowledge

Writing in Action Principal Carla Leone and her collaborative team of teachers have crafted writing diagnostics to use as a formative practice to evaluate the needs of students and to help make decisions in writing instruction. The assessment, given twice a year focuses on informative writing about a nonfiction and sentence structure in grades 2-5. Examples of what an administrator might observe in grade-level team meetings when teachers are reviewing writing diagnostics: Analysis of students' mastery of sentence structures and handwriting Discussion of the sequence of skills in Tier 1 instruction and planning to support students in mastering grade level standards as well as in gap remediation Discussion of helping students who need more support in working memory Discussion of students who need support with cognitive flexibility in planning their writing and in shifting tasks while writing

Why is Writing Importan including reading compreher makes thinking visible and helps cultivate a command of language

Figure 4. Simple View of Writing (St. Martin, et. al., 2020)

Skills – handwriting, - organization, tex structures, vocabul

### How to Know if Students Are Proficient in Writing?

Writing includes grade appropriate spelling of words, spacing handwriting and use of punctuation.

- Writing includes word choice appropriate to topic and audience.
- Writing is cohesive and well-organized, with a flow of ideas within and between paragraphs.
- Writers orchestrate the phases of writing: planning, translating (drafting) and revising as soon as they begin writing.
- Students fluently write for different purposes, use appropriate organization and can discern in the areas of word choice, syntax, vocabulary and text structures.

### How to Support Writing Development? Elements of effective writing instruction:

- Students write about the texts that they read (for example, written responses, summaries of the text, notes about texts, answering questions about texts in writing)
- Instruction in writing skills and processes that go into creating texts such as the process of writing, text structures, paragraph and sentence construction skills and spelling
- · Systematically teach letter formation and handwriting to fluency
- . Use of explicit modeling; supported practice and independent practice of sentence components; text types and writing
- strategies; increasing how much students write . Use of intentional sequence of skills within and across grades

□ Follows a purposeful sequence of foundational skills Small group practice with progress and composition skills ☐ Building command of sentences following a ☐ Instruction in syntax with modeling and ☐ Daily writing in response to texts, across content areas ☐ Practice manuscript and cursive writing Explicit, systematic instruction in spelling ■ Explicit instruction in handwriting and letter formation

AGE 23 | Implementing Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement, Grades K-5 | February 2023





## **Explicit Instruction for All Students**

"Even proficient readers may struggle with writing, making it critical to provide explicit writing instruction for all students" (Graham & Perin 2007).



## Questions to Consider...

What would have happened if she didn't receive explicit instruction outside of school?

For Rebecca, the majority of school instruction was placed on some aspects of the language comprehension side of the Simple View of Reading ....

How is her spelling & writing growth linked to her foundational instruction?

What would her trajectory look like if she had received explicit & systematic instruction in word recognition?

How could she benefit from explicit instruction in transcription and translation skills?



# Gifted Learner Profile: Meet Rebecca

Did we allow her gifted identification to feed the myth that she would be "fine"?

Did we assume she had mastered all "foundational skills" because she could engage in complex cognitive tasks?

Did we allow her strengths to mask her skill needs?

What will her scores look like in grades 5, 6, 7?

"Over the years I encountered more and more students who were not able to read fluently and who struggled with comprehension. This included students who were identified for the gifted and talented programs who often had large sight vocabularies but did not have word identification skills to decode words encountered in print or the first time. How could these students who had abilities and access to books not know how to read decodable words (words that follow the patterns of letters and sounds)?"

## Teaching for High Potential: The Science of Reading is for Everyone

## Susannah Richards

### buried under books: A READER ON READING

usannah.richards@me.con Witter & Insta: @SussingOutBooks

### The Science of Reading is for Everyone

A few months ago, Emily Nandroff, American Pub-ble (Mean in making AMM) Serior Produce and Comregion, adjustance procedul, Husen, couldable, gaid comprehension, deet, Isanched a new series named 504 a 50ept.

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I handleded to Dools in mortia.

The Discusse Produces (https://www.apmreports.orgicoliscition/ and on social media.

This is not a debate. Many students do not learn to read.

This is not a debate. Many students do not learn to read.

When I began teaching in the mid 1980s, I was unprepared to teach students how to read. That some absolute has basic knowledge of the such students how to read. That some absolute has knowledge of the support of the with access to books, had parents whey had cadegoout with access to books, had parents who valued reading and were able to learn to need with instruction that may not have been as effective as it could have been. Over the years I enuntered more and more students who were not able to read fluently and who struggled with comprehension. This included nuertry and wno arrugated win comprehension. This included students who were identified for the gifted and talented pro-grams who often had large sight vocabularies but did not have word identification skills to decode words encountered in print for the first time. How could these students who had abilities and access to books not know how to read decodable words (words that follow the patterns of letters and sounds)?

I started to question the methods and materials that were being used to teach students to read. How did the picture help a student decode a word? How might I teach students to read in a more explicit and systematic way? These questions haunted me but in truth I was focused on other areas of educa tion including meeting the needs of students who were identi-fied as gifted and talented, researching the characteristics and methods to teach talented readers, and developing curriculum strategies to escalate English/Language Arts curriculum. Fas forward to now. I teach literacy courses for teacher candidate and courses in an advanced master's program for certified teachers. I have spent most of my career as a professor learning how people learn to read and teaching students about the

education investigation that Hanford has been researching for years. My first encounter with Hanford's work was in 2018 words. In fact, it is likely that 5-10% of the population learns to yeals, we're not entouring we're freeden't ske'n war no o're we're no year o'r not entouring we'r yn ac yn y gael yn ac y fei yn ac y listening to her work on the flawed ways that young people those who are Twice-Exceptional (2e) and may have difficulty with the printed word but also have s

might not identify patterns in how sounds are represented by assume that all students will learn without instruction. As you tellers. I did not know some of the basic terms of the individual of the control 2nd and 3rd graders. In my first few years of teaching, many child of that age, it is also possible that they may benefit fro

- . Does the student identify and generate rhymes'
- Does the student have the ability to decode words that they see in print from the first time?
   Does the student read fluently with accuracy, rate, and
- . Does the student have the Tier II (high frequency and mul tiple meaning words in a variety of domains) and Tier III (content specific) vocabulary they need to create meaning
- . Does the student demonstrate literal and inferentia

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"One promising approach for 2e students is the multisensory, structured language approach used for the treatment of dyslexia."

## **Gifted and Dyslexic: Identifying and Instructing the Twice-Exceptional Student** International Dyslexia Association

Gifted and Dyslexic: Identifying and Instructing the Twice **Exceptional Student** 

As individuals, each of us has a unique combination of strengths and weaknesses. But sometimes we are exceptionally strong or weak in certain areas. In the school setting, students with ceptional strengths and weaknesses may have different instructional needs than other students. Twice exceptional or 2e is a term used to describe students who are both intellectually gifted (as determined by an accepted standardized includes students with dyslexia.

The NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) recognizes three types of students who could be identified as Ze-

- Identified gifted students who have a
- learning disability

  Students with a learning disability whose
- giftedness has not been identified
- Unidentified students whose gifts and disabilities may be masked by average

It is commonly believed that many 2e students: inadequate intervention. Sometimes it can be a greater struggle to show that a student is eligible for services for treating dyslexia than for eiftedness: at other times, proving eligibility for vices for the giftedness is the challenge. For gifted students who also have dyslexia, it is mportant to advocate with equal energy for both the disability and the ability.

Raising awareness is an important first sten. provides information on identifying 2e students. viding them with effective instruction, and raising questions for future research.

Studies commonly suggest that 2-5% of school-

among girls and boys. Boys are more often identified with the disability part of the 2e equation and therefore may more often be

Some research has also shown that dyslexia is more common among gifted people in spatially oriented occupations, such as art, math, architecture, and physics. While each of these studies may have specific methodological strengths and weaknesses, in general there is reading and/or language deficits are seen in evidence is not conclusive that having dyslexia significantly increases the likelihood of being

Specific causes of 2e are not known. Research, however, suggests three possibilities:

- giftedness and dyslexia is due to chance or naturally occurring variations in human neurology
- · Some people with dyslexia develop gifts outside of the reading domain through experience or practice
- . In the course of early neu the brain is wired so that learning to read is difficult but learning in other domains is not: that is in some cases, there may be a dyslexia and giftedness

Exactly how and to what degree these three etiologies exist in the 2e dyslexia population remains to be discovered.

Parents and teachers may fail to notice both giftedness and dyslexia. Dyslexia may mask

## Ohio Resources

**ReadOhio** 

The Science of Reading

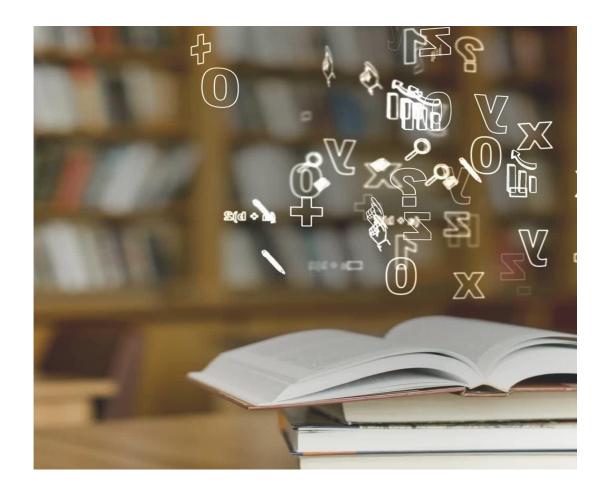
Professional Development Information and Frequently Asked Questions for gifted learners

Implementing Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement:

Resources for School Leaders

### Questions:

 Sign Up for English Language Arts and Literacy updates





## Literacy Academy On Demand

https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Literacy-Academy/Literacy-Acade

## Books

- Different Minds: Gifted Children with AD/HD, ASD and Other Dual Exceptionalities by Lovecky
- Gifted Guild's Gyude To Depth and Complexity by Byrd and Gemert
- •What Educators Need to Know: Twice-Exceptional Children: From Struggling to Thriving by Laningham, Lin and Wilson
- When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers by Galbraith and Delisle
- •Your Rainforest Mind: A Guide to the Well-Being of Gifted Adults and Youth by Paula Prober

# MTSS Turn & Talk



Gifted Services within MTSS		
Start	Stop	<b>Continue</b>
Our system needs to start	Our system needs to stop	Our system needs to continue