

Identifying High Potential Learners in Design Technology

Summary

This advice sheet contains a checklist of criteria, originally compiled by the QCDA (Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency), to help with identifying high potential learners in Design Technology. It is aimed at secondary school subject teachers, as well as high learning potential lead teachers.

Below is a list of the characteristics commonly shown by learners who have high learning potential in design technology. A learner need not be showing all of these to be considered a high potential learner, but would most likely be demonstrating a majority of them.

Learners who demonstrate high learning potential in design technology:

- demonstrate high levels of technological understanding and application
- display high-quality making and precise practical skills
- have flashes of inspiration and highly original or innovative ideas
- demonstrate different ways of working or different approaches to issues
- are sensitive to aesthetic, social and cultural issues when designing and evaluating
- are capable of rigorous analysis and interpretation of products
- get frustrated when a teacher demands that they follow a rigid design-and-make process
- work comfortably in contexts beyond their own experience and empathies with users' and clients' needs and wants.

Learners who demonstrate high learning potential in design technology may be a very different group from high potential learners in other subjects. The breadth of designing and making means that some of these learners will have abilities in a specific area, for example working with food, using computer-assisted design (CAD) or high-quality making, but not in others.

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In order to identify effectively in this area, teachers need to allow time for interaction with learners to observe the techniques and strategies that they use to tackle problems. It is important to acknowledge that these learners may wish to hide the extent of their abilities.

Further Information

https://www.slideshare.net/atwissell/identifying-gifted-and-talented-students-in-design-and-technology-22730515	Guidance on identifying gifted and talented learners in DT
http://www.rlsmart.net/uploads/2083/957373/rfile/callington%20D%20&%20T.doc	Identifying gifted and talented learners in Design Technology, Engineering and Catering.
<i>Meeting the Needs of Your Most Able Pupils in Design and Technology</i> by Louise Davies	Book published by David Fulton with guidance on identification, planning, differentiation and support. Also has CD with lesson plans.

Potential Plus UK Date of Issue: March 2018

Potential Plus UK Planned Review Date: March 2021

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