

The Gifted Child and Suicide

1. Educators and parents of the gifted should be alerted that approximately 10% of their students may suffer from clinical levels of depression.
2. Gifted students like their average peers, could benefit from preventive affective education to understand their affective development and to cope with stressors.



No
Student Left
Behind!

3. A child who is gifted doesn't make him/her exempt of common problems which non-gifted child confront in life.
4. From being harassed by peers, failing grades, isolation, etc. through the years the demands for a gifted child sometimes are different from the non-gifted child. These demands may take them to contemplate suicide as a way of escape.
5. As pointed by J. Delisle, "there is not enough evidence that the gifted are more prone to suicide than the non-gifted".

7. Word of caution, gifted children can be meticulous and thorough planners. They might determine to commit suicide because they have decided to do it and can't see any alternative.

8. As parents, teachers and counselors we need to be informed and observed signs that may conduct a gifted student to contemplate suicide.



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WEST SHORE JUNIOR / SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Gifted Student and Suicide

GO Wildcats!!!



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SIGNIFICANT RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ADOLESCENT SUICIDE

1. Psychiatric disorders such as depression and anxiety.
2. Drug and alcohol abuse.
3. Genetic factors.
4. Family loss or disruption.
5. Friend or family member of suicide victim.
6. Homosexuality.
7. Rapid socio-cultural change.
8. Media emphasis on suicide.
9. Impulsiveness and aggressiveness
10. Ready access to lethal methods.



PROBLEM:
SUICIDE

SOLUTION:
OPENESS
COMMUNICATION
TEAMWORK

Humble Suggestions (Nelson):

1. Be watchful
2. Reach out
3. Ask questions
4. Encourage individuals to talk
5. Listen without judgment
6. Talk openly about suicide
7. Remain calm
8. Be Positive



Working Together:

1. Educators, counselors, parents and peers need to work together to provide safe environments that allow gifted and talented students to learn and grow and provide for their mental health needs.

2. Communication and intervention are the key in preventing the loss of life to suicide.

3. Even if there is some resistance in the individual at risk, our support is essential in intervention and prevention.

References

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