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AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

This dictionary offers examples of the usage of the major terms employed in the education of gifted, talented, and creative children. To accomplish this, pertinent journal articles and books written since 1960 were searched to develop a comprehensive list of terms important to those in the field.

In each case, the terms are defined in the words of experts in the field. For the most part, these quotations are exactly as originally published. In a very few instances, we had to make minor alterations in the interests of brevity and clarity.

The aim here was to include only those definitions we thought would be helpful to students, educators, and administrators in the field of education. We included the main current usage or usages, and any subsidiary uses that were clearly important. We made no judgment as to which definitions or descriptions were correct, nor did we explore the history of the uses of these terms.

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A

AAG (See American Association for the Gifted, The; Appendix B)

ABBREVIATED BINET FOR DISADVANTAGED

An abbreviated version of the Binet favoring the southeastern Black disadvantaged student.

Bruch, 1971, 268.

ABDA: (See Abbreviated Binet for Disadvantaged)

ABILITY

The actual power present in an organism to carry to completion any given act or to make adjustments successfully, the response being subject to voluntary control and dependent on the motivation of the subject to do his best performance.

Good, 1973, 1.

ABILITY, COGNITIVE (See Intelligence)

ABILITY GROUPING

1. ...is a provision that allows some students to be separated from the more typical students by some given criteria, in this case, the level of measured intelligence. Ability grouping may be implemented as special classes or schools, special groups, meeting prior to or after school, pullout programs during school hours where gifted students are separated for a given period of time and then returned to the regular program or summer workshops. At the secondary level, a tracking system is often used to group students into classes based on academic ability.

Clark, 1979, 139.

2. The practice of organizing classroom groups in a graded school to put together children of a given age and grade who have most nearly the same standing on measures or judgments of learning achievement or capability....Ability grouping may be based on a single test, on teacher judgment, or on a composite of several tests and/or judgments.

Findley & Bryan, 1970, 2.

3. Grouping of pupils within classes or schools on the basis of some measured mental ability.

Good, 1973, 269.

4. (A procedure whereby) a given grade is divided into different classes on the basis of ability, the range of ability within each class being relatively narrow.

Hopke, 1968, 3.

Ability Grouping 2

5. An administrative delivery system used widely in educating the gifted. Students are divided into homogeneous groups based upon student performance in meeting set criteria necessary for participation in a particular group.

Walker, 1978, 489.

6. Refers to removal of children from heterogeneous classroom settings to classrooms composed of children with similar ability levels.

Suran & Rizzo, 1979, 487.

7. Grouping of children to any single criterion such as reading ability or mental age (intelligence).

Torrance, 1965, 38.

8. Also sometimes called "segregation." The practice of assembling or deploying students for instructional purposes who are somewhat nearer together in general capacity for learning, or in given specific aptitudes, so that instruction and learning may proceed at a pace and in terms of qualities suited to this (these) capacities. Contrasts with those forms of grouping which use chronological age or alphabet as criteria for homogeneity and developmental readiness. May take the form of special classes, special schools, multiple track curricula, etc, and may be arranged for part or for all of the school curriculum. Specific capacities for differing areas of knowledge or skill, with interests related thereto, are recognized as superior criteria for grouping, as opposed to general indices (e.g. composite I.Q.) applied across the range of school activities.

SREB Report, 1962, 29.

ABILITY TEST

A nontechnical term usually applied to tests designed to measure intelligence or aptitude; ordinarily used with various modifying adjectives, for example, mechanical ability test or musical ability test.

Good, 1973, 594.

ABLE

1. A term used to describe a child whose rate of development with respect to time on some variable of social significance is significantly larger than that of the general population of children.

Gowan & Demos, 1964, 33.

2. Used to describe a pupil of high learning ability.

Hopke, 1968, 4.