



香港資優教育學院
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Able underachievers and how to identify them

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What are able underachievers?

- Underachievement can be defined as an inability to perform appropriately for one's age or talents (abilities).



Degrees of underachievement

- Able high flier
- Coaster
- Disaffected underachiever

Belle Wallace
Teaching the Very Able Child



Why do some students underachieve?

- Personal choice
- Social and emotional needs
- External influences
- Maturity



Factors affecting underachievement

- Difficulties with peers
- Expectations of teachers
- Expectations of parents



Factors affecting underachievement

- Perfectionism
- Feelings of anxiety
- Feelings of isolation



Factors affecting underachievement

- Low self-esteem
- Unaware of own potential
- Socio/ethnic difficulties



Factors affecting underachievement

- Moving home or country
- Family breakdown
- Moving school
- Transition from one key stage to the next



Maslow's hierarchy

- Influence and personal development
- Physical and emotional needs
- Survival



Particularly vulnerable groups

- EAL students
- Students with behavioural difficulties
- Some members of cultural minorities
- Those with gender issues in some subjects
- Disadvantaged able children
- Gifted students with a learning difficulty



- Don't overlook members of vulnerable groups

