

Lori Comallie-Caplan Professional Learning Sessions, March 19

- **Understanding the Neurology and Over Excitabilities of the Gifted – recommended for counselors, teachers, IF's, administrators**

Neurobiological evidence suggests that the types of cognition most heavily courted in schools - learning, attention, memory, decision making, and social functioning – are both profoundly affected by and subsumed within the mental processes of emotion. This presentation explores the differences in neurology of the gifted and its impact on the social emotional world of the gifted. Strategies for working with the challenges of these unique social emotional needs will be provided.

- **Motivating the Underachieving Gifted Child – recommended for teachers, IF's, administrators**
Gifted students are a lot like snowflakes; no two students are alike. While one student might need very little encouragement to excel, motivating the next might feel like trying to wring sap from a tree with bare hands. There's no sweeping answer to motivation, but there are prescriptive strategies that can help to encourage the gifted underachiever.

- **Moving Past Perfectionism and Procrastination – recommended for parents, teachers**
Children who are perfectionist have a need for achievement that does not allow room for mistakes. They have high expectations for themselves and for others. They are the children who erase the page until there is a hole on the paper, or those who fail to turn in homework for fear of a mistake being revealed.

To the teacher or the parent these children appear to be unmotivated when, in fact, they may be afraid of failure. The fear of failure is actually more motivating than the completion of the task. For much of the early years, schoolwork is often so easy for gifted children that they never learn what it is like to be challenged. When work comes easily and perfect scores are often achieved, they come to expect perfection from themselves. They learn to be perfect and are rewarded for perfection by good grades, parental and teacher praise, and accolades from classmates. They do not learn how to take risks, possibly fail and then learn from their failures. When finally faced with a daunting task, gifted children may not have the tools to deal with the challenge. This presentation will assist parents with understanding their perfectionist child as well as provide strategies to help them move beyond their perfectionism.

