The Revolving Door Identification Model

Joseph S. Renzulli University of Connecticut [10-1-24]

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the idea of revolving door model mean to you?

The Revolving Door Identification Model is based on my theory for the development of gifted behaviors called the Enrichment Triad Theory [see below]. In this theory we provide Type I Enrichment [General Exploratory Experiences] and Type 2 Enrichment [Thinking Skills] *for all students*. Students who show strong interests in these two types of General Enrichment can then "revolve into" Type 3 Enrichment [Individual and Small Group Investigative and Creative projects]. As I like to say, "the young person thinking, feeling, and doing like adult professionals on a particular topic or content area, even if they are doing this at a more junior level than an adult scientist, writer, artist, etc.".

Why is the revolving door model a topic close to your heart?

Many programs for "The Gifted" are based solely on IQ or achievement test scores. I believe that all students who show strong interests and motivation to study a topic in depth should have an opportunity to explore these interests through what I call Gifted Education Pedagogy [see below].

Working with and observing students in the revolving door - what are your biggest personal takeaways?

My biggest "take away" is seeing young people who would not ordinarily be given these kinds of opportunities "turn on" to the excitement of this different brand of pedagogy from the usual prescriptive and didactic pedagogy that dominates so much of what goes on in most schools around the world. There are endless examples of famous people who would never had been identified as gifted via IQ scores that have given the world important ideas, products, inventions, and social and political contributions for the betterment of mankind.

