



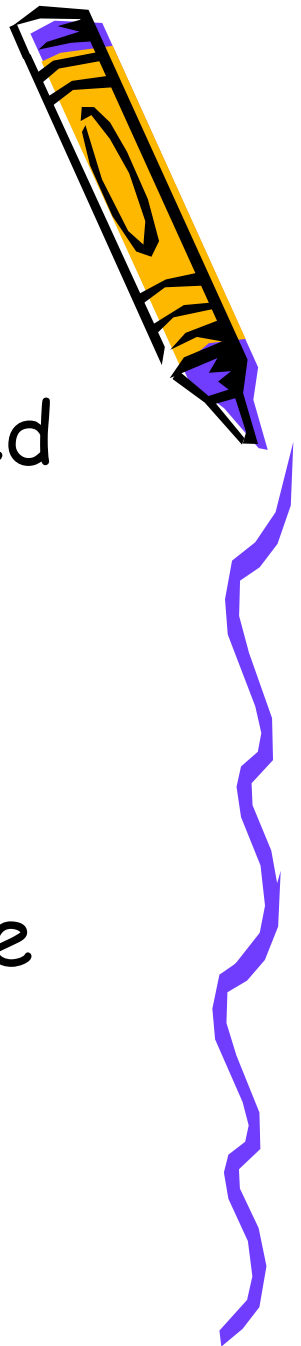
Transitions

Supporting Your Gifted Child's
Constantly Changing World



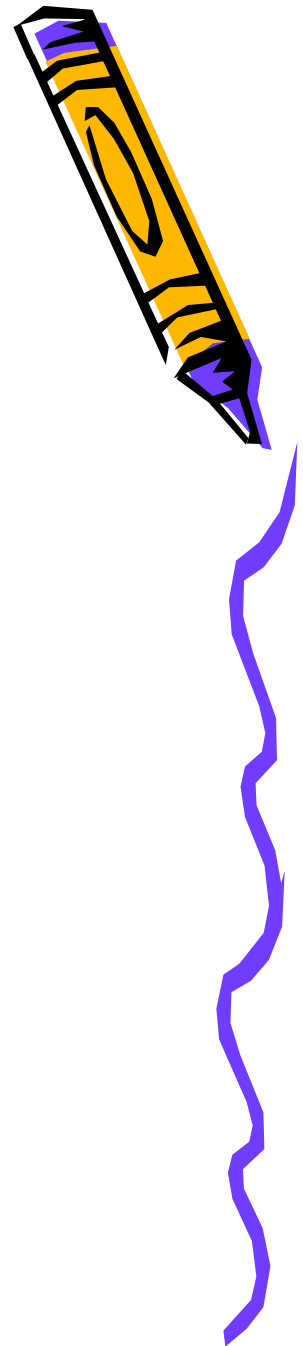
Personal Experience

- Think of a time in which your gifted child experienced a challenging transition.
- What did you do to help with the transition?
- In retrospect, what might you have done differently?



Why Normal Developmental Transitions May Be Difficult in High-functioning Families

Dr. Jean Peterson
Purdue University



Transition Challenges

- Parental Anxieties
- Hypersensitivity—Parents and Children
- Memories!
- Parents Reliving Own Transitions
- Old Issues
- Control!
- "Catastrophizing!"
- Cross-generational Modeling?



Parental Anxieties at Significant Developmental Junctures



- Entering School—parental-control issues; child-as-extension-of-parent issues; perfectionism; “Am I doing enough?”
- Age 9-10—less parental control; peer-group influences; catastrophic visions; mirror images; tendency to “keep ‘em busy,” fears regarding “doing enough?”



Parental Anxieties at Significant Developmental Junctures

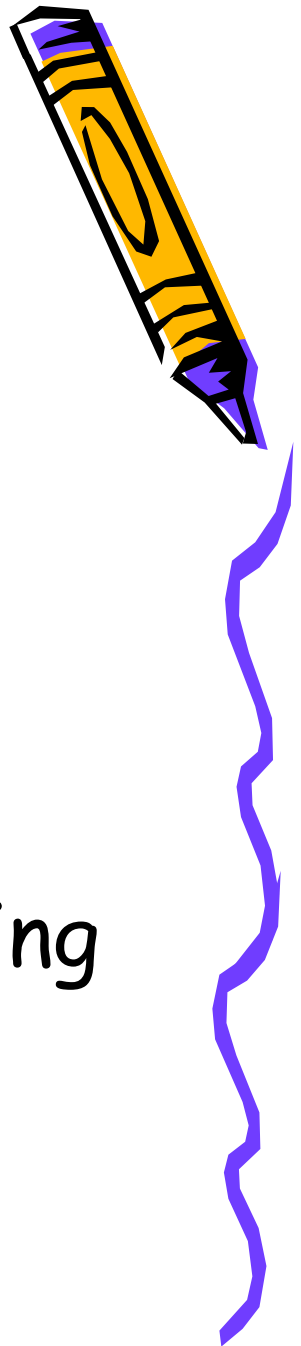


- Puberty—taking it personally, insecurely; being “needy,” reliving own adolescence; creating what is most feared?
- When achievement “really matters”—no other topic of conversation; “doing” valued more than “being”



Child Anxieties at Developmental Junctures

- Uncertainty! No "map"!
- Unknown Territory (and little tolerance for ambiguity?)
- Perfectionism (being used to being able to control)



Child Anxieties at Developmental Junctures

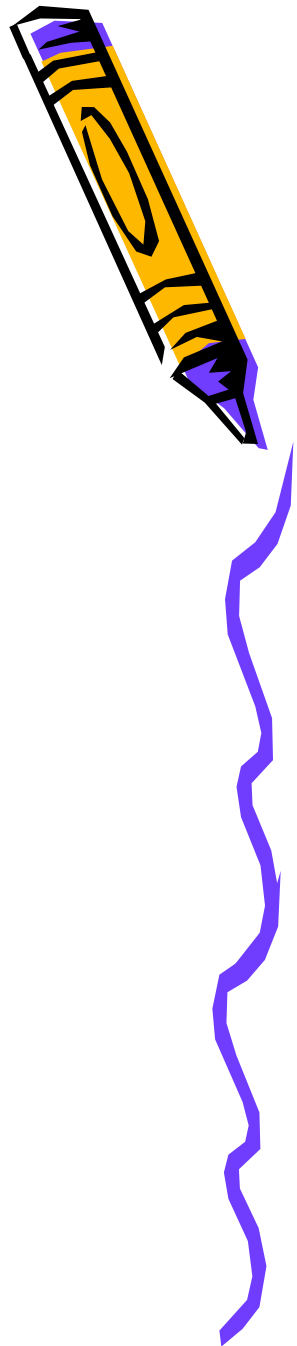


- Sexuality (troubling thoughts, past embarrassments, androgyny, no sense of commonality with others, no chance to articulate the concerns?)
- Peer Relationships (new demands, concerns, peers > adults, unfamiliar territory)
- Future-Fear (afraid of asking "dumb" questions about college; relocation; perfectionism re: direction, major, roommate, college, marriage; leaving childhood behind; others' expectations; managing the complexities of adulthood)



Transition from Home to School

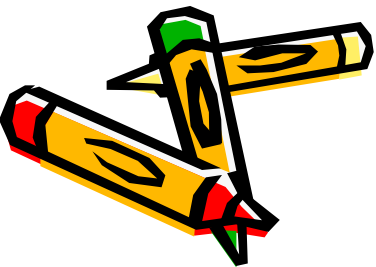
- Rules
- Procedures
- Timeframes and Schedules
- Order
- Community
- Choices
- Focus



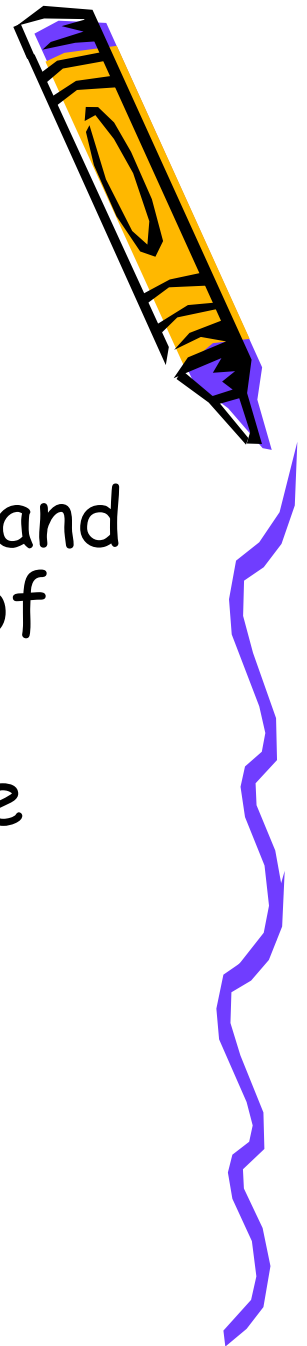
Transition to Middle School: Parent Role



- Strengthen family connections with young adolescents.
- Be knowledgeable about the needs and concerns of young, gifted adolescents.
- Understand and contribute to the district's plan for identifying and serving high-ability learners.

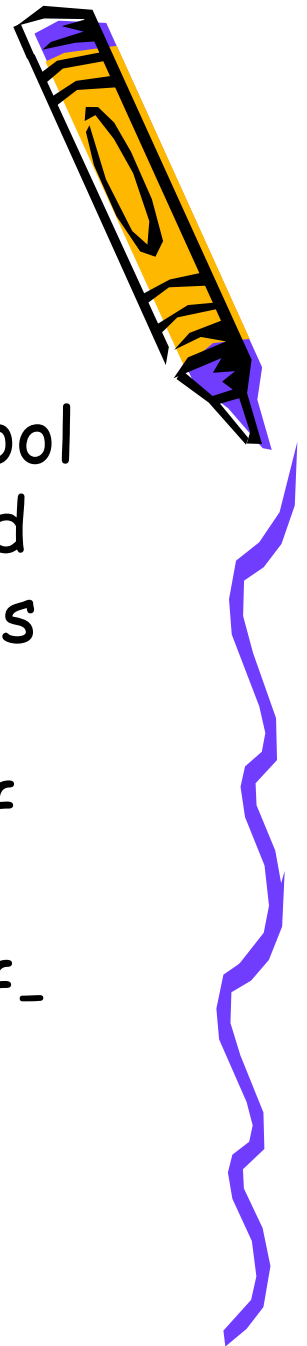


Transition to Middle School: Parent Role



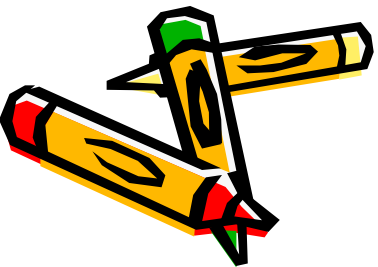
- Help their children take appropriate responsibility for their own learning and develop related skills and attitudes of responsible independence.
- Collaborate with the school to ensure that their children's needs are being met.
- Be their children's best advocates.

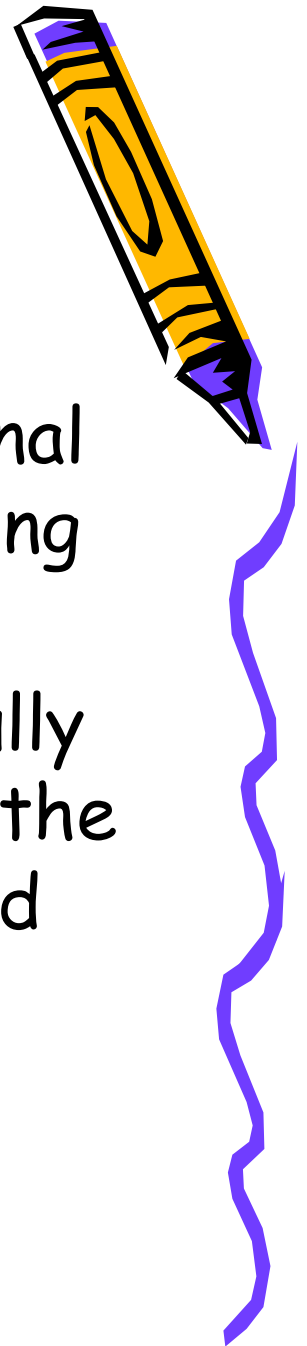




Transition to High School

- The transition from middle to high school can be one of the most academically and emotionally challenging times in the lives of young adolescents.
- In addition to the roller coaster ride of emotions, students at this age undergo physical changes and question their self-esteem almost daily.





Transition to High School

- Perhaps the most critical social-emotional issues involve making friends and handling peer pressure.
- Friendships and social networks, carefully and sometimes painfully formed during the middle school years, are often disrupted as students transition to high school.





Transition to High School

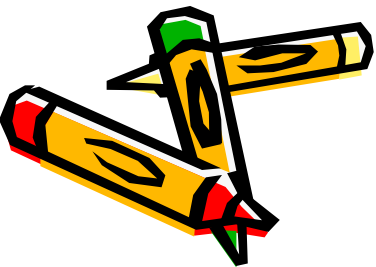
- Encourage self-confidence and patience as new relationships are built.
- Help your child find an extracurricular group either at school or in the community that promotes and provides healthy activities.
- Discuss group dynamics, or how groups form and change.

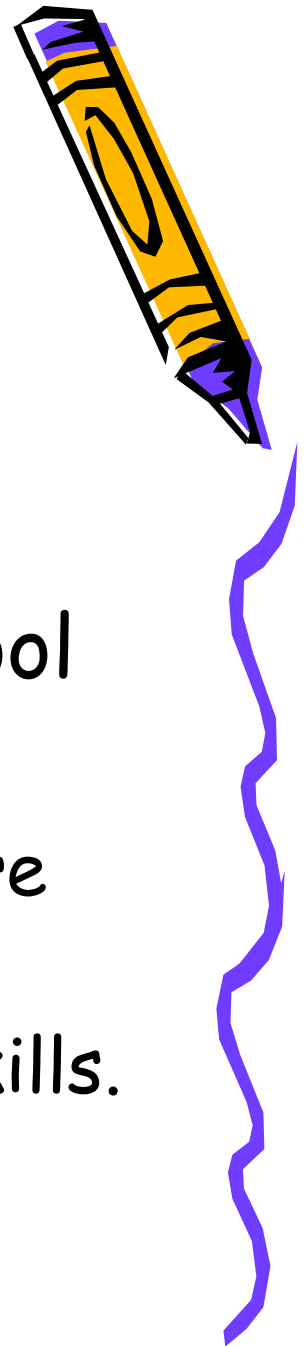




Transition to High School

- Talk about values and make certain that your teen knows and can articulate his or her personal ethics and values.
- Help your teen learn to deal with conflict by practicing assertiveness and learning when to just walk away.

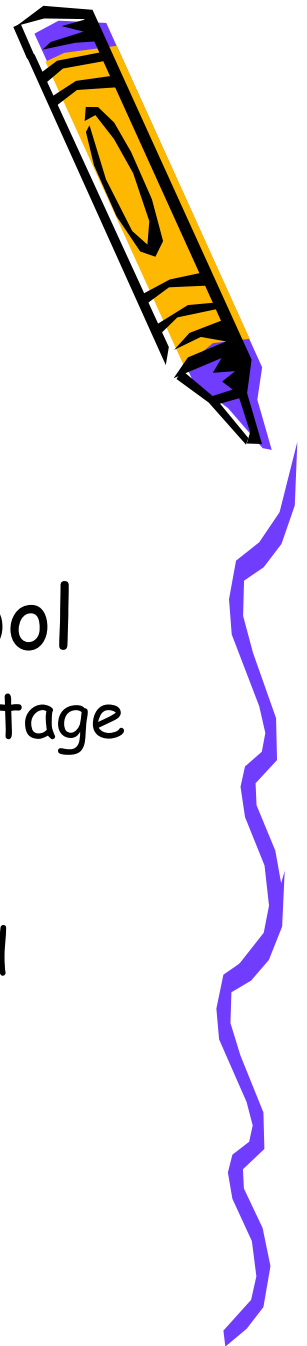




Transition to High School

- All students, regardless of achievement level, encounter academic changes during high school
 - Grades become more important.
 - Homework and projects consume more time.
 - Teachers expect good note-taking skills.





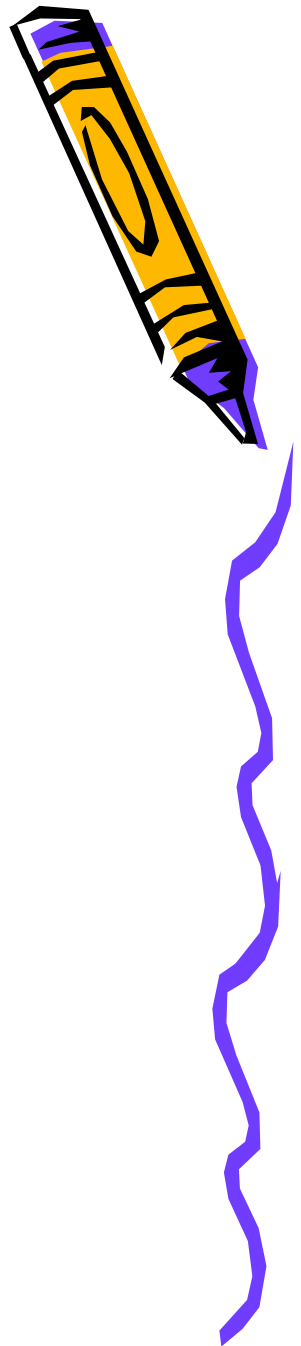
Transition to High School

- All students, regardless of achievement level, encounter academic changes during high school
 - Tests and exams count for a higher percentage of the final grade.
 - The daily schedule is different.
 - Organizational skills, time management, and communication skills become critical for academic success



Transition to Independence

- Careers and Multi-potentiality
- Diversity
- Self-discipline and regulation
- Independent living
- Financial responsibility
- Adapting to multiple contexts



Miscellaneous Transitions

- Friendships
- Neighborhoods
- Interests
- Family structure
- Loss and bereavement

