

**‘Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy
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GIFTEDNESS AND LEVEL 1 AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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ABSTRACT

According to the revised version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5, APA, 2013), level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is characterized by difficulties in social interaction and communication and by restricted, stereotyped or repetitive patterns of thought and behavior. The clinical picture of children with level 1 ASD is sometimes accompanied by high intelligence and other special abilities and it is not uncommon for people with level 1 ASD to have exceptional skills or talents in some special area of interest. However, similar skills and talents are presented by another group of people, the "Gifted Children" (GC). Gifted children, as well as children with level 1 ASD, often grow to make a correct assessment of their actual cognitive status, resulting in false impressions from both parents, educators and clinical psychologists. It is therefore understandable that focusing on those subtle lines separating the Giftedness dimensions from the characteristics of level 1 ASD requires even more attention and systematic observation, especially from the part of those interacting with this special group of children. The possibility of mistaken assessments may have a negative impact on the cognitive, social, and emotional development of this special group of children by excluding them from a reinforcing intervention and influencing their later life. The ASD, nowadays, can be diagnosed even before the age of three, and this makes clear that the earlier a parent gets the diagnosis, the more possible is the functional rehabilitation of the disorder. Appropriate and early intervention in school may contribute positively to cultivating and strengthening the mechanisms that will improve the quality of their everyday life. The purpose of this work is to gather information on the coexistence and the possible association of Giftedness and level 1 ASD, through the bibliographic research.

Keywords: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Gifted children, Giftedness

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