

## What it can feel like to be a gifted child with undiagnosed disability

*[typed in a single paragraph by a highly gifted Year 8 child with **undiagnosed** auditory processing disorder, scotopic sensitivity, dysgraphia and ADHD (predominantly inattentive presentation)]*

If my teachers would just talk to me about my work without yelling they would know that I really understand it. The work is not too hard. In fact, math and science are really pretty easy. I am not bored in class but sometimes an idea gets stuck in my head and I just **have** to finish thinking about it right away. I look like I am just daydreaming and then I get yelled at and then I get angry and upset. When I get yelled at I stay angry and upset inside for the rest of the day. I am always afraid a teacher will yell at me. If I had bad behaviour like some other kids do then I could understand why I am always getting yelled at. But my reports always say that I am polite and I have good behaviour. When I get yelled at and punished it's always because of my schoolwork or my homework or my tests. At school I always feel rushed. I am always afraid I won't have enough time at my locker or I'll be late for a class or forget a book and then I'll get punished and the other kids will laugh at me. Often in the classroom there is so much noise and so much going on I get really jittery. I wish there was a calm room I can go to sometimes to calm down and get back together and get ready to face it all again. I wish school was more like the course I went to at [a local university] in the holidays. The teachers there talked to us like people, not like little children. Even if a kid gave a wrong answer in class they still got talked to like a grown-up. The teachers asked us what we thought like they were really interested. This makes a person want to say what they really think to a teacher. Every day at school I'm afraid I'll get in trouble for not handing in homework that I didn't hear the teacher give us. When my report came and it said I had missing and late homework, I didn't even know what it was. I never deliberately decide not to do some homework that I knew we had been given. Sometimes I do homework and I don't know why but I don't hand it in. Maybe I'm thinking about something else when the teacher asks for it. Sometimes I am surprised when I get home and find I still have my homework in my bag and I figure the teacher never asked for it. I'd rather email my teachers than speak to them about when they yell at me in case they yell more. In class I don't like to ask a question in case the teacher has already taught that part when I haven't been listening because I've been thinking about what's going on in my head, and then the teacher would get mad or the other kids would think I'm dumb. In some of my classes there is so much going on all at once. We have to think and listen and write all at the same time. I feel like I fade in and out, in and out, all day. I write so slowly, the class just gets away from me. Some teachers speak so fast without breathing. Other teachers repeat the same thing over and over until every kid understands it but you have to keep listening really hard in case the teacher stops repeating it and goes on and teaches something new. I really like learning new things, especially in math and science, but I don't like school. I don't see why school has to be like this. And I want to quit.