

# Renzulli's Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness

Renzulli considers three factors important for the development of gifted behaviour: **Above average ability, creativity, and task commitment.**



Within the **above average abilities** Renzulli makes a difference between general abilities (like processing information, integrating experiences, and abstract thinking) and specific abilities (like the capacity to acquire knowledge, perform in an activity).

By **creativity** Renzulli understands the fluency, flexibility, and originality of thought, an openness to

experience, sensitivity to stimulations, and a willingness to take risks.

Under **task commitment** he understands motivation turned into action (like perseverance, endurance, hard work, but also self-confidence, perceptiveness and a special fascination with a special subject).

Renzulli argues that without task commitment high achievement is simply not possible.

Only if characteristics from all three rings **work together** can high achievement or gifted behaviour be witnessed.

Recently Renzulli shifted his emphasis toward the background factors in his models, the personality and environmental factors influencing gifted behaviour.

## **Further Information**

- Renzulli, Joseph. S.: [The Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness](#) at the [Schoolwide Enrichment Model \(SEM\)](#) web site
- See documents about the [Operation Houndstooth](#) at the [NEAG Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development](#) web site to learn more about personality and environmental factors.

## **Sources**

- Renzulli, Joseph S. & Reis, Sally M.: The Schoolwide Enrichment Model - Second Edition; Creative Learning Press, Mansfield 1997 (p. 5-14)
- Sternberg, Robert J & Davidson, Janet E. (ed.): Conceptions of Giftedness - Second Edition; Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2005, p.

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Please address any suggestions, critic, and questions to [mattgig@freesurf.ch](mailto:mattgig@freesurf.ch).

Matthias Giger, April 2006 (Update: 16-12-2007)

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