

# NURTURING &

# SUPPORTING

# the GIFTED CHILD


  

 RECOGNITION
   

 SOCIAL EMOTIONAL
   

 ENRICHMENT
   

 TWICE EXCEPTIONAL
   

 PARENT SUPPORT
 

## INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

### Hoagies Gifted Page

A major source of information on all aspects of gifted children.

[www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)

### Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG)

Fosters environments in which diverse gifted adults and children understand and accept themselves and are supported by their families, schools, and workplaces.

[www.SENGigted.org](http://www.SENGigted.org)

### Gifted Development Centre

Dr. Linda Silverman

[www.gifteddevelopment.com](http://www.gifteddevelopment.com)

### 2e: Twice-Exceptional Site

Provides information and resources on raising, educating, and meeting the social-emotional needs of gifted.

[www.2enewsletter.com/](http://www.2enewsletter.com/)

## CHARACTERISTICS

OF

## GIFTED LEARNERS

No column is intended to be mutually exclusive.

i.e. a gifted learner might also be a creative thinker.

A CREATIVE THINKER...	A GIFTED LEARNER...	A CREATIVE LEARNER...
Is interested	Is curious	Wonders
Is attentive	Is selectively mentally engaged	May seem off task
Generates advanced ideas	Generates complex, abstract ideas	Overflows with ideas
Learns with ease	Already knows	Questions: What if . . .
Is pleased with own learning	Is self-critical	Is never finished with possibilities

## RECOGNITION

### 1. Appreciate gifted learners as children.

Just as all children do, they need love, friendship, reasonable standards of behavior, responsibility, time management skills, free time, and creative pursuits. They need your involvement in their development of independence. Appreciate them for who they are rather than who they may become.

### 2. Recognize how your child has unique personal and instructional needs.

Gifted students require intellectual peers who understand more abstract ideas and get their jokes. Gifted students may excel in just one specific domain. Nurture their areas of strength.

## ENRICHMENT

### 1. Enjoy music, plays, art, sports, museums with your child, . . . follow their interests and leads.

This gives the family shared experiences, and allows your child to explore areas of interest.

### 2. Nurture your child's gifts and interests.

Seek out community groups, courses, and activities that will allow your child to engage in areas of their interests.

### 3. Model life-long learning.

Talk about current events, volunteer, attend community functions. Continue to learn about things of interest to you and share your interests with your child.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

### 1. Discuss the positive outcomes of their strong emotion intensities

i.e. sensitive to others, loyal, keen sense of humor, passionate, creative.

### 2. Assure your child that being different is okay.

Gifted children can feel disconnected from age peers as they interpret social situations differently. Help them appreciate individual differences in others and themselves. Provide a place where it is safe for them to be themselves.

### 3. Understand the uneven development of your gifted child.

Gifted students may be strong in certain areas while weak in others and may experience difficulty expressing their abilities which can lead to frustration. They may be aware of their differences compared to their peers while some are unaware and unable to fit in with other children.

### 4. Be an active listener and elicit your children's perceptions to help deal with their feelings.

Strive to understand their thoughts and feelings. *What do you think we can do? How do you feel about it? Why do you think that happened?*

### 5. Develop a feeling vocabulary

Include a continuum of feeling words to help your child be able to express their feelings. When you read stories together you can talk about what feelings the character in the story may feel.

## TWICE EXCEPTIONAL

### 1. Understanding your child's unique needs can open a door to success.

Their giftedness can mask their special needs and their special needs can hide their giftedness.

### 2. Focus on your child's strengths.

Help your child to use their strengths to support areas of weakness.

## PARENT SUPPORT

### 1. Interact with families with gifted children.

Gifted children seek interest-mates and intellectual-peers as well as age peers. You may also find solace interacting with another parent of a gifted child.

#### ADAPTED FROM:

Kingore, B. (2008). 20 Tips for Nurturing Gifted Children. *Gifted Education Communicator*, 39 (2), 29-31.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD BY WORKING WITH HIS/HER CLASSROOM TEACHER

Build a positive relationship between your child, you and the classroom teacher to help meet your child's learning needs.

### 1. Communicate with your child's classroom teacher.

Find out how your child is doing in class and share what you know about your child.

### 2. Work with the classroom teacher to identify possible ways to support your child at school and at home.