Greetings!

When my son was quite small, he and his little playmate would have full blown conversations about their various interests at the moment: Pompei, military air craft, Thailand, you name it. As mothers of our boys, my friend and I knew no differently.....just a regular ole' play date.

Fast forward to the time our boys reached school age. Other kids generally didn't want to play "Dances With Wolves" on the playground and weren't quite sure about the rules for playing Gettysburg. The allure of the ventriloquist dummy wasn't immediately evident.

Recent GT Meetups and parent groups have highlighted gifted characteristics and behaviors. It is enlightening as parents begin to recognize traits that, in isolation, may not be of note, but together make up our gifted kiddos.

This month, let's delve into the traits and behaviors of giftedness. I would bet that you'll find that your GT kiddo demonstrates more than a few.

Cheers,
Michelle

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAGT GT Conference Parent Institute
The Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented is hosting their annual conference on October 20th and 21st.

A parent institute will be held the evening of October 20th. The cost of this is very reasonable, $20 for an individual or couple from the same household.

Learn more...

"If we want our nation to prosper, we must pay attention to its most intelligent youth."

Following the 9/16 presentation by Dr. James Delisle Ph.D., author and renowned GT Educator, parents were left inspired for what is possible in gifted education. Yet, Dr. Delisle's call to action raises the question, if nationally, gifted students'
GIFTED TRAITS

Cognitive Traits
- Very Observant
- Extremely Curious
- Intense interests
- Excellent memory
- Long attention span
- Excellent reasoning skills
- Well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis
- Quickly and easily sees relationships in ideas, objects, or facts
- Fluent and flexible thinking
- Elaborate and original thinking
- Excellent problem solving skills
- Learns quickly and with less practice and repetition
- Unusual and/or vivid imagination

Social Emotional Traits
- Interested in philosophical and social issues
- Very sensitive, emotionally and even physically
- Concerned about fairness and injustice
- Perfectionistic
- Energetic
- Well-Developed Sense of Humor
- Usually intrinsically motivated
- Relates well to parents, teachers and other adults

Language Traits
- Extensive Vocabulary
- May Read Early
- Reads Rapidly and Widely
- Asks “what if” questions

Additional Traits
- Enjoys learning new things
- Enjoys intellectual activity
- Displays intellectual playfulness
- Prefers books and magazines meant for older children
- Skeptical, critical, and evaluative
- Asynchronous development

Asynchronous Development

Let’s face it. This can be one of the most puzzling pieces of giftedness to understand and balance.

For those unfamiliar with the term, asynchronous development refers to uneven intellectual, physical, and emotional development. In average children, intellectual, physical, and emotional potential is being ignored. How does my school or district hold up?

In response to questions raised, NoCo Gifted Showcase Summit panelists will showcase GT programming, supports and innovations as well as address topics such as:

- Identification criteria and process
- Early entrance and acceleration
- Supports provided for identified students
- Concurrent enrollment
- Certification requirements for GT teachers
- Parent engagement
- Invited panelists include:
  - Poudre Schools
  - Thompson Schools
  - Weld RE-4 Schools
  - Greeley Schools
  - St. Vrain Valley Schools
  - New Vision Charter School
  - Rivendell School
  - Windsor Charter Academy
  - and more.

Facilitated by Melanie Isenhour, CDE GERC, and Dr. Blanche Kapushion, CAGT President.

Monday, November 10, 2014
6:30-8:00 pm
Embassy Suites Conference Center
Canyon Maple A

Hosted by the NoCo Gifted Community

Audio Presentation:
Demystifying Assessments for GT Students

If you missed last week’s presentation by TSD Gifted and Talented Administrator, Dr. Carol Swalley, you are in luck. Check back soon at the link below for the online audio presentation.

Click to View

Cognitive Traits

Gifted children are no different in many ways from any other child. Each has his or her own level of patience, willingness to take risks, unique interests, etc.

Still, there are characteristics of gifted children that are common enough that, when clustered, are often indicators that a child may have cognitive or creative abilities that far surpass other children the same age.
development progresses at about the same rate. That is, the development is in “sync.”
An average three-year-old has the intellectual and physical abilities as well as
the emotional maturity most other three-year-olds have.

However, in gifted children, the development of those areas is out of “sync.” They do not
progress at the same rate. Sound familiar?

Learn more

Asynchronous Development in Gifted Children, by Dr. Dan Peters, Summit Center

The Real World of Gifted Teens

"Mr. Wickers called me 'gifted' in front of the whole class. I'm ruined."

This article covers many issues that gifted teens face in school, in their social lives and
at home. Strategies for helping teens through these difficult times are suggested.

Read More

Source: Davidson Institute for Talent Development, Tips for Parents

Perfectionism

Below is a link to an interesting video produced by Duke TIP that speaks to this very topic.

Cognitive Characteristics of Gifted Students: Smooth Sailing, Rough Seas from Duke TIP on Vimeo.

“I discovered being gifted on my own, more or less, because I taught myself how to read when I was in kindergarten, and from then on I always seemed to do better than everyone (except athletics).” - 13 yr old boy

Social Emotional Traits

Parents of gifted children have few guidelines about how to deal with issues resulting from their children's giftedness. Not only intellectual, but also social and emotional issues provide challenges for parents.

Five social/emotional traits of giftedness (divergent thinking ability, excitability, sensitivity, perceptiveness and entelechy) are described, and the specific issues that parents must face to enable their children to reach their full potential are explored. Read More

Source: SENG

“Sometimes when I act silly my mom says, 'Don't do that' or 'Don't say that; you're too smart to do that.'” - 9 yr old girl

Language and Additional Traits

The Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness Research on creative-productive people has consistently shown that although no single criterion can be used to determine giftedness, persons who have achieved recognition because of their unique accomplishments and creative contributions
Parenting A Perfectionist Child - Carol Dweck, Psychologist & Author

Learn more about Carol Dweck and Mindsets

Do you have a Growth or Fixed Mindset? Take this quiz to find out.

Giftedness in Adults

“There is no magic age when giftedness disappears. Gifted children grow into gifted adults with the same unique attributes and life issues.”
Lesley Sword, Director of Gifted & Creative Services Australia

When parents first encounter the process of identification with their children, they learn about the characteristics of gifted and highly gifted children, just as we have in this newsletter. Often, they recognize those characteristics in themselves, many for the first time. Read More

Are you a gifted adult? Take a quiz here.

Student quotes throughout newsletter sourced from: “Gifted Kids Speak Out” by James R. Delisle
Learn More

2e (Twice Exceptional)

During the last decade, increasing attention has been given to the confusing question of high ability students who also have learning disabilities. These learning disabled gifted and talented students, or “twice-exceptional students” (Nielsen, Hammond, & Higgins, n.d.), need remediation activities. At the same time, they also require opportunities to promote their own individual strengths and talents in one or more domains in which they have previously displayed their superior abilities. More

GT Parent Liaison

I am a parent of two boys, 15 and 7. My oldest was put on “watch and enrich” in 2nd grade, and formally identified Gifted & Talented in 5th grade. My 2nd grader is a rambunctious 7 year old, with all that entails. Every day with my children has been its own gift and adventure.

I am here to empower you to be an effective advocate for you child, offer tools to add to your parenting toolbox, and create networking and learning opportunities for GT parents.

Cheers,
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