

Other Contacts

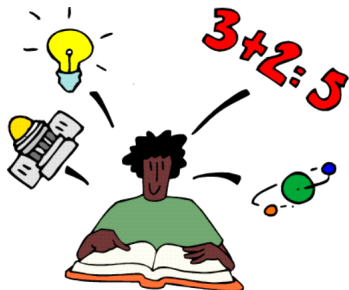
Lyn Allcock
Mensa's Gifted Child Consultant
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NAGC
(National Association for Gifted Children)
Suite 14, Challenge House
Sherwood Drive, Bletchley
Milton Keynes MK3 6DP
0845 450 0295 or 01908 646433
amazingchildren@nagcbrtain.org.uk

The Gifted Children's
Information Centre,
Hampton Grange,
21 Hampton Lane,
Solihull B91 2QJ
Tel: 0121 705 4547

CHI
(The support group for Children of High Intelligence)
45 Ouseley Road,
Wraysbury,
Middlesex TW19 5JB
Tel: 0870 034 7761

NACE
(National Association for able Children in Education)
PO Box 242
Arnold's Way
Oxford OX2 9FR
01865 861879



Books

Helping the Child of
Exceptional Ability
Susan Leyden
Croon Helm Publications

Living with a Gifted Child
Frieda Painter
Souvenir Press

A Guide to Intelligence and Personality
Testing
Victor Serebriakoff
The Parthenon Publishing Group

The Education of Very Able Children in
Maintained Schools
HMI Publications



Mensa
The High IQ Society

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Mensa
The High IQ Society

Gifted
and
Talented
Children

Most parents have an accurate idea about their child's level of ability but are cautious about expressing their feelings in case they are wrong or laughed at by others.

Step One - Observation

In the first instance you can gather evidence yourself. A gifted child may exhibit any or all of these behaviours:

- A preference for the company of adults or older children.
- An interest in subjects or events that would not normally interest children of that age.
- A deep interest in or knowledge of a certain subject.
- Speaking, reading or writing earlier than other children.
- An outstanding memory.
- Likes to be in charge and make the rules **or** prefers their own company and spends long periods of time involved in their own activities.
- Academically ahead of children the same age.
- Takes competitive games very seriously.
- Shows a high level of frustration with their own efforts.

Step Two - Evidence

Parents often prefer the security of an informal assessment before moving on to step three. There are books that can be bought at ordinary bookshops that contain checklists or informal tests that may indicate whether or not your child has a high level of ability.

Step Three - Confirmation

The most certain way of knowing your child's level of ability is to undertake an assessment by a qualified Educational Psychologist. This process can be expensive but you will have documented proof which will be accepted by other educational professionals. A list of recommended psychologists can be obtained from some of the organisations supporting gifted children. Assessments by other organisations can be very accurate and not as expensive but are not always accepted in educational circles.

What to do if your child is gifted

If your child is well adjusted and happy at home and school then you need do no more than offer support and encouragement. Help them to follow their interests and introduce them to new ones. Respond positively to their ideas and talk through their concerns and difficulties with them. Remember that just like everyone else, the gifted child is not, and does not have to be, good at everything. If your child is experiencing difficulties you may want to investigate and rectify the situation. There are a number of individuals and organisations who can support you in this. They will also have the experience and knowledge to advise you as to the best course of action in your circumstances.

Supporting parents

Most Local Education Authorities have a Gifted Children's Advisor and in the case of a disagreement with your child's school you may choose to contact them.

Being the parent of a gifted child can be a bewildering and lonely experience. Talking to the parents of other gifted children can be of real help. You have the opportunity to share experiences with others but also to gain from the experience of other people in similar situations. Most gifted children's organisations have local support networks for parents.

What Mensa can offer gifted children

- The opportunity to communicate with other bright children.
- Magazines and publications aimed at them.
- An environment that offers intellectual challenge and stimulation.



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