Journeys with Bright and Gifted Children: A Survival Guide

January 2012

Beginning Resources
www.highabilityutah.org/parents - High-Ability Utah Parent Resource Center
www.hoagiesgifted.org – Comprehensive resource site
www.nagc.org – National Association for Gifted Children
www.uagc.org – Utah Association for Gifted Children
www.eric.ed.gov – digital library of research, Education Resources Information Center
www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html – University of Connecticut, National Research Center on Gifted/Talented
www.gifteddevelopment.com – The Gifted Development Center in Denver

Beginning Books

JOIN A LISTSERV
UAGC News see www.uagc.org
UTAH_GIFTED Parent List http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UTAH_GIFTED/
Directory of Gifted Listservs http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/on-line_support.htm

Introducing the High-Ability Utah Parent Resource Center
Utah’s High-Ability Student Initiative Program
http://www.highabilityutah.org/parents
Contribute to the DIALOGUE in Spring 2012 at: http://tinyurl.com/highabilityutahPRC

Bright Child/Gifted Learner by Janice Szabos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bright Child</th>
<th>Gifted Learner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Knows the answers</td>
<td>1. Asks the questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Is interested.</td>
<td>2. Is highly curious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is attentive</td>
<td>3. Is mentally and physically involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Has good ideas</td>
<td>4. Has wild, silly ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Works hard</td>
<td>5. Plays around, yet tests well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Answers the questions</td>
<td>6. Discusses in detail, elaborates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Top group</td>
<td>7. Beyond the group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Listens with interest</td>
<td>8. Shows strong feelings and opinions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Learns with ease</td>
<td>9. Already knows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 6-8 repetitions for mastery</td>
<td>10. 1-2 repetitions for mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Understands ideas</td>
<td>11. Constructs abstractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Is receptive</td>
<td>15. Is intense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Enjoys school</td>
<td>17. Enjoys learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Absorbs information</td>
<td>18. Manipulates information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Good memorizer</td>
<td>20. Good guesser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Enjoys straight forward, sequential presentation</td>
<td>21. Thrives on complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Is alert</td>
<td>22. Is keenly observant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Is pleased with own learning</td>
<td>23. Is highly self-critical</td>
</tr>
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Help! What Do I Do Now?

Sometimes, the most difficult part of raising children lies in knowing where to go for information and assistance. Resources are available, but how do you find them? A few suggestions:

1. **Start with your child’s school.** Teachers see a side of your child that you don’t. Get their input; work as a team. Also, some schools provide access to a gifted education specialist. Check with them for books, resources, and information. Have you checked out district, school, and teacher websites? Many have links to information for both parents and students.

2. **Join your local affiliate, Attend a SENG Parent Group, Check with other parents.** Become a member and get involved in your local Utah Gifted Association affiliate. Membership in your local affiliate also includes a full membership in the Utah Association for Gifted Children (UAGC). These organizations can help you network with other parents facing similar challenges, find resources and advocate for programs and services. Don’t have a local affiliate? Contact Michelle Murphey, UAGC Affiliate VP at michellem@utahparentcenter.org or 385-646-4190. See the next page for information on SENG Parent Support Groups. Join the UTAH_GIFTED Parent Discussion List at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UTAH_GIFTED/ Check out the Utah Association for Gifted Children website at www.uagc.org for upcoming events and links to further resources – while there, sign up for the listserv [UAGCNews] for the latest info. Also check www.hoagiesgifted.org, which is the most comprehensive gifted resource site on the internet.

3. **Have you looked at www.nagc.org, the National Association website?** They have a parent specialist to whom you can submit questions as well as a myriad of links to specific articles regarding gifted education.

4. **What about local libraries and bookstores?** The Murray and Salt Lake County Libraries have a growing collection of books on differing aspects of giftedness. If there is a title you would like your library to acquire, request it. Companies such as Freespirit, Great Potential Press, Prufrock, Creative Learning Press, and DeLeon Publishing specialize in materials for gifted children. Some of these publications can be found at local bookstores. See a listing of publisher websites in the gray “Parent Resources” section of this handout.

5. Above all, in the words of Winston Churchill, “Never, never, never, never give up.” Keep searching until you find an answer. It is out there, the challenge lies in the hunt.

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**The Importance of Membership: An Affiliate Perspective**

By Kay Erwin

The Murray Association for Gifted Children began because there were needs: First there was a need for parents of gifted children to network with other parents of gifted children. Although many believe that gifted children are easy to raise, parents know differently. They come packed with a variety of challenges. Second, a voice was needed at the school and district level to help others understand that gifted children may require something different in their classrooms. Third, joining together gave parents the opportunity to learn more about gifted children with speakers, newsletters, and other sources of information.

So our association was formed to meet these needs and we have accomplished much. But there is still work to be done in all of these areas. A strong organization is dependent on a strong membership. Parents still need to have an opportunity to share their experiences with others that may have had similar experiences or at the very least, can understand some of the challenges. Unfortunately, “they can make it on their own” is still heard throughout the halls of schools and Capitol Hill. Only advocacy and education can change that. Also, MAGC is an affiliate of the Utah Association for Gifted Children that sends our members a quarterly newsletter filled with information for teachers and parents and offers opportunities to hear state and national experts in the field of gifted education.

So our work goes on. But we need that strong membership. If you have not considered joining, please consider it now. $25.00 a year or $45.00 for two years is very little to pay for all of these benefits. Imagine the impact we can have when we say that we represent 200 or more parents in Murray.
Some of My Best Friends Are Books:


Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli, Knopf Books for Young Readers, August 2000. ISBN: 0679886370. “New girl” at the high school is not afraid to be herself.

“Searching for Bobby Fischer” – video about a young chess player whose father is set on him becoming a champion.

“Little Man Tate” - video about a child genius trying to find his place in the world.

“Vitus” – video, German with English subtitles; A boy works to balance brilliance with normalcy.

University of Utah
Youth Academy of Excellence (YAE)
www.youth.utah.edu

Enroll your student in an exciting summer experience on a premier research campus: interact with other bright and motivated peers, delve into an area of passion, and connect with the rich university environment through field trips and guest experts. YAE offers sessions for middle school students (entering the 8th, 9th or 10th) and elementary school students (entering the 5th, 6th or 7th). Classes are small and in-depth.

BECOME A MEMBER OF Utah Association for Gifted Children and a local affiliate.

www.uagc.org
Homeschool

www.hoagiesgifted.org/home_school.htm
Hoagies Gifted Resource Page for home school

http://giftedhomeschoolers.org/
Gifted Homeschoolers Forum


Parenting Resources

www.sengifted.org
Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted

www.freespirit.com
Free Spirit Press

www.giftedbooks.com
Great Potential Press

www.prufrock.com
Prufrock Press

www.creativelearningpress.com
Creative Learning Press

Guiding the Gifted Child, James T. Webb, et al., Great Potential Press, 1994. ISBN 0910707-00-6 (This will be used for parent discussion groups)


Summer Resources

Sparking Student Passions: Talent Search, Summer Programs, and Stimulating Possibilities – To Be Updated and posted at www.highabilityutah.org/parents

Dabrowski’s Overexcitabilities

The following are excerpts taken from “Overexcitability and the Gifted” by Sharon Lind, SENG Newsletter, 2001, 1(1) 3-6. For complete text, see www.sengifted.org/articles_social/Lind_OverexcitabilityAndTheGifted.shtml

Overexcitabilities: inborn intensities indicating a heightened ability to respond to stimuli. Found to a greater degree in creative and gifted individuals, overexcitabilities are expressed in increased sensitivity, awareness, and intensity, and represent a real difference in the fabric of life and quality of experience.

Psychomotor Overexcitability: heightened excitability of neuromuscular system…derive great joy from their boundless physical and verbal enthusiasm and activity.

Sensuous Overexcitability: heightened excitability of sensory system…derive great joy from their boundless physical and verbal enthusiasm and activity.

Intellectual Overexcitability: marked need to seek understanding and truth, to gain knowledge, and to analyze and synthesize…incredibly active minds. Intensely curious, often avid readers, usually keen observers…able to concentrate, engage in prolonged intellectual effort, and are tenacious in problem solving whenever they choose.

Imaginational Overexcitability: heightened play of the imagination with rich association of images and impressions, frequent use of image and metaphor, facility for invention and fantasy, detailed visualization, and elaborate dreams…mix truth with fiction, or create their own private worlds with imaginary companions and dramatizations to escape boredom.

Emotional Overexcitability: heightened, intense feelings, extremes of complex emotions, identification with others’ feelings, and strong affective expression. Other manifestations include physical responses like stomachaches and blushing or concern with death and depression…remarkable capacity for deep relationships; they show strong emotional attachments to people, places, and things.

General Strategies:

Discuss the Concept of Overexcitability
Focus on the Positives
Cherish and Celebrate Diversity
Use and Teach Clear Verbal and Nonverbal Communication Skills
Teach Stress Management from Toddlerhood On
Create a Comforting Environment Whenever Possible
Help to Raise Awareness of One’s Behaviors and Their Impact on Others
Remember the Joy

Western Academic Talent Search

Provides opportunity for academically talented 3rd – 9th graders to take the SAT, ACT, or EXPLORE tests. These above-level assessment tools provide a “higher ceiling” and valuable assessment information for young, academically talented students as well as early experience taking college entrance exams. Scores may also be used to qualify for summer programs and concurrent enrollment classes.

For more information, call the Western Academic Talent Search office at 303-428-2634 or check out their website: http://www.centerforbrightkids.org

To gain the greatest benefit from the program, students need to apply by early November.