

## Nurturing the Gifted and Talented Student

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Nurturing the natural talent of the gifted student is essential in their academic, intellectual and social development. The gifted student in the mainstream school setting faces a number of challenges not faced by non-gifted students. These challenges include boredom, frustration and social isolation from peers. Finding the right gifted student activities is essential to the well-being of your gifted student.

There are a number of gifted student activities that will keep their mind sharp, active and focused. The gifted student is often bored, and will sometimes perform beneath his abilities. Keeping his mind sharp is the only way the gifted student will receive the challenge his gifted brain craves. For the student who is mathematically and logically inclined, provide him with puzzles, brain teasers and logic games. There are a number of mathematics camps that are geared toward students whose brains require the higher level of stimulation that mathematics requires. Consider enrolling him in a chess camp or signing him up for activities such as matheletes.

The student whose brain is focused on scientific exploration needs a different type of activity to keep his brain working at its optimal level. Activities such as space camp or robotics competitions are great for the mind that craves investigating and hypothesizing. There are special science and technology camps geared toward girls that satisfy their intellectual curiosities as well as encourages them in a field that has been traditionally dominated by male students.

For your avid reader, there are many activities that will immerse him in the written word. For the older student, a writing camp or creative writing courses at the local community college will get his creative juices flowing. For younger readers, library programs such as storytelling and reading clubs will give them the opportunity to dig into their favorite books while connecting with children who share their interests. Encourage your gifted and talented child to create his own stories. Formulate a plot and allow his creative genius to guide the story to the limits of his imagination. Form a book club that allows your child to socialize with his friends while discussing his favorite stories. Encourage your older child to volunteer to read to younger children. Not only will they be engaging in their favorite activity, they will be bringing the joy of reading to others.

Artistically inclined gifted students have a plethora of options available to them. From violin lessons to dance classes, art courses and graphic design workshops, there is no limit to the outlets for the artistic student. Sign your high school aged student up for art workshops at the local college, or enter him into drawing contests. Encourage your young cellist to perform at weddings and other celebrations to nurture his craft. Your preschool songbird will enjoy performing for an adoring crowd of fans in your place of worship.

Finding an outlet for your gifted child's talent can seem like a challenge. By focusing in on his strengths and nurturing them, you will be giving your child the stimulation that his engaging mind craves.