



‘Gifted and talented’ describes children and young people with one or more abilities developed to a level significantly ahead of the year group (or with the potential to develop these abilities).

- ‘gifted’ learners are those who have abilities in one or more academic subjects such as maths and English
- ‘talented’ learners are those who have particular abilities in sport, music design or creative and performing arts

Gifted and/or talented children may display some of the following characteristics:

- is intently focused
- asks insightful questions
- sees beyond the obvious
- provides creative and original solutions
- has a great intellectual curiosity
- learns easily and readily
- shows initiative and originality
- possesses unusual imagination



This list is not exhaustive nor does it mean a child is necessarily gifted if he/she displays some/all of these features



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Where can I get further information and support?

www.nagcbrtain.org.uk - The National Association for Gifted Children provides a wide range of advice for parents/carers including information on national networks

www.giftedmonthly.com - a monthly newsletter for parents of able children

www.parentscentre.gov.uk

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/giftedandtalented

www.aquila.co.uk – a ‘fun magazine for lively minded children’ aged 8 – 13.

www.gridclub.com – lots of ideas to support able pupils

www.nace.co.uk – a range of publications

www.mensa.org

www.familyeducation.com [USA]

www.masterclasses.co.uk

www.thomasarmstrong.com – multiple intelligences

www2.teachernet.gov.uk/gat/

www.londongandt.org

www.cfbt.com/teach/giftedtalentededucation/parents

Excellence East

www.villierspark.org

Local Authority G&T contact numbers

Bedfordshire	01234 836103
Cambridgeshire	01480 372406
Essex	07786 125344
Hertfordshire	01582 830212
Luton	01582 531107
Milton Keynes	01908 253303
Norfolk	01603 433276
Peterborough	01733 748251
Southend	01702 534880
Suffolk	01787 220088
Thurrock	01375 413666

Eastern Region Gifted and Talented Partnership

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Is my child gifted or talented?



Information for parents and carers
of gifted and talented pupils

Leaflet 1 in the Eastern Region Excellence Series

If you think your child is gifted and talented, what should you do?

- **Contact the school** and discuss your child with either their class teacher or the headteacher
- Share information with your child's teacher about his/her strengths, interests and achievements including any particular gifts/talents that he/she is developing out of school. Sometimes exceptional abilities are evident only outside the school setting and it is important that the school knows about this.
- Discuss with the school how they intend to support your child – in most cases the school will be able to provide everything your son/daughter needs, just occasionally they may need to point you to external support or opportunities
- It is also important that your child has access to any additional out-of-school hours opportunities such as clubs, masterclasses and summer schools that may be provided by the school or external agencies. Your school should have further information about such opportunities.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** – ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND



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How can I support my child?

- Set time aside each day to talk with your child.
- Encourage him/her to sample new activities.
- Use the environment to provide a broad range of experiences e.g. visits to galleries, museums, sports centres
- Provide resources to support learning at home e.g. internet, visual stimuli, books, maps.
- Make sure your child has the opportunity to make friends, including with those who share his/her interests.
- Read all you can about giftedness and talent and learn about the characteristics of gifted children.
- Take the time to develop positive relationships with your child's school and teachers. Find out what they do to support Gifted and Talented pupils.
- Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities at school and beyond, including summer schools, outreach and distance learning activities.
- If your child complains about being bored, take the comments seriously and seek a solution with your child, and the school if appropriate.
- Seek out other families with gifted or talented children through the school, local community or national networks via NAGC.
- **And finally, make sure your child also has time to relax and play!**



How should the school be supporting my child?

Every school has a responsibility to meet the educational needs of all their pupils. In respect to their gifted and talented pupils, schools are expected to:

- Have a teacher with the special responsibility for these children in school
- Put into practice a school policy for G&T pupils
- Identify their G&T children and ensure all staff are aware of their specific learning needs
- Provide suitably challenging work/activities in lessons
- Support access to extra-curricular opportunities beyond the school day
- Work in partnership with parents/carers

What should I do if I have concerns about my child's progress?

Sometimes parents/carers may feel unsure of whether their child is working at the pace appropriate to their ability. Where parents/carers have concerns it is important to communicate them immediately with the school. The most effective approach is to:

- Contact the class teacher to discuss concerns. Agree necessary action and arrange to meet later in the term to review progress.
- If contact with the class teacher does not resolve your concerns, contact the school's G&T co-ordinator/lead teacher to discuss your continuing concerns. This may be the head teacher in some schools.
- You may also wish to speak with the head teacher if your concerns persist.
- Further advice can be obtained from your Local Authority.