

SUPPORTING YOUR GIFTED CHILD

AT HOME

Activities

- Read aloud routinely as a family, even when children can read themselves.
- Read the classics.
- Join an adult interest group (photography, birds, gems and minerals, chess, etc.) with your child.
- Encourage your children to enter contests: consider spelling bee, Destination Imagination, science fair, etc.
- Help your child to develop presentation skills. Sign up for a storytelling class or encourage him/her to become a magician, clown, or juggler.
- Encourage friendships.
- Discover the nonfiction section of your library.
- Select challenging games and play them with your children.
- Encourage your child to start a collection, going beyond just gathering objects. Think of ancillary activities to enhance the project.
- Foster an appreciation in the arts. Visit museums and attend concerts. Participate in a play or be a member of a stage crew.
- Check out special-interest classes and camps. Apply early.
- Choose a foreign language to learn as a family.
- Host an exchange student.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal or find a pen pal.
- Take advantage of the free offerings of nearby colleges.
- Have your child join a Junior Great Books group.
- Teach your child how to take advantage of new technologies (computer, recorders, etc.)
- Develop your children's bodies as well as their minds. Include some family fitness activities.
- Arrange for an internship for your child at a local business.
- Encourage science projects and inventions.
- Become involved in a social cause as a family.
- Encourage your child to be an entrepreneur (dog-walking service, birdhouse business, etc.)
- Support your child's interest in construction (skateboard ramp, dollhouse, fort, dog pen, etc.)
- Study the stock market. Purchase some stock or mutual funds and track the investment.
- Promote environmental awareness by adopting an endangered animal, planting trees, recycling, buying an acre of rain forest, etc.
- Let your child plan his birthday party around a theme.
- Borrow recipe books from the library and have your child prepare a weekly meal. Try some ethnic dishes.
- Dream, imagine, and have fun

Attitudes

- Model life-long learning.
- Encourage and model good communication with your children.
- Encourage your child to share his/her feelings in an accepting environment.
- Be a good listener.
- Be a facilitator and a guide. Share in the adventure of learning something new.
- Allow childhood to be a part of your gifted child's life.
- Don't compare your children with each other.
- Make free time a regular pastime. Don't over program your child.
- Set clear and consistent expectations and consequences. Follow through.
- Help your child believe in him/herself.
- Nurture the passion and interests within your child.
- Compliment your child with achievable descriptors only when deserved: bright, kind, good thinker, rather than brilliant, genius, etc.
- Model general respect for educators. Avoid critical conversations of particular teachers in front of your child.
- Be a role model who reflects the values you demand of others.
- Value hard work and the satisfaction of achievement.
- Emphasize the positive. Deal with the negative in non-judgmental ways.
- Discuss effective ways to solve problems and deal with failure.
- Encourage independence through responsible behavior.
- Remember who the student is, who owns the homework, and who needs to do the learning.