

Where does giftedness come from?

It may come as a surprise to you but intelligence or talent is, in part, inherited.

Your mom and dad (and possibly both) are probably also highly capable.

Another factor that determines your level of TAG ability is environment. Everything around you – experiences with friends, family, school, books you've read, games you play, all contribute to the enhancement of gifted abilities.

While no one knows exactly which factor is most important in determining TAG ability, we do know that there are things you can do to maximize your giftedness.

Things like working hard in the classroom, being active, reading a lot, meeting new people, traveling, being inquisitive and taking advantage of life's opportunities – all of these things help you to become knowledgeable and creative. They give you the opportunity to stretch your mind and grow as a person.

- Adapted from The Gifted Kids Survival Guide by Judy Galbrith

Resources

Books for Students

Perfectionism – What's so Bad About Being Too Good? by Miriam Adderholdt-Elliott, Jan Goldberg

Gifted Kids Survival Guide by Judy Galbraith

Gifted Kids Speak Out by James R. Delisle

Kids with Courage by Barbara Lewis

Books for Parents

Bringing Out the Best by Jacquelyn Saunders

Stand Up For Your Gifted Child by Joan Smutny

The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids by Sally Walker

Freeing our Families from Perfectionism by Thomas S. Greenspan

Websites

www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=76

<http://www.afterschool.gov/kidsnteens2.html>

<http://www.howstuffworks.com>

<http://www.merlynspen.com>

<http://www.oatag.org>

<http://nagc.org>

<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html>



Being TAG in School

Hide not your talents.
They for use were made.
What's a sundial in the
shade?

-Benjamin Franklin

Advocate!

Sometimes its tough to make and keep friends and to make sure you're getting what you need from your teacher. Here are some tips that might help:

Teachers

Many TAG students learn new concepts at a faster rate than their peers. They also bring a lot of information and knowledge to the classroom that teachers may not expect them to know. Some students have their own projects and interests that they would like to pursue while other students are working on regular classroom material. Consider these suggestions for talking to your teacher about your ideas around challenging opportunities in the classroom.

- Make an appointment to meet and talk rather than corner them unexpectedly.
- Think through what you want to say before you go into your meeting with the teacher.
- Choose your words carefully.
- Focus on what you need, not on what you think the teacher needs to do.
- If you know another student who has the same ideas, consider coming together.
- Don't expect the teacher to do all of the work or propose all the answers.
- Listen to the teacher's side, they might have information you don't know about.
- Bring your sense of humor.
- If your meeting isn't successful, get help from another adult.

Friends

- Don't act like a hotshot or know-it-all. Nobody knows everything and it won't help you make friends.
- Help kids to know that you have other interests besides schoolwork. Let them know you're more than just a super speller or math whiz. Some of their interests may be ones you share too.
- Be respectful and think about how other kids feel when you do things so well. Compliment them when they do things well. We all have unique strengths.
- Don't always think you have to have things your way; other people have good ideas too.
- Be a friend.
- Be patient when working with other students if they don't get what you're saying right away.
- Get involved in activities outside of school.
- When kids ask you for help, don't feel bad about saying no. Sometimes you just don't have time. Sometimes you just don't feel like doing it. A true friend will understand.

Tips For Parents

Sometimes parents may need to advocate at the school to help their child get the most out of their educational experience. Here are some important things for parents to consider when getting involved at school.

- Help your student learn to advocate for themselves at the appropriate level for their age.
- Understand that there are at least two sides to every situation.
- Model positive, constructive behavior and attitudes.
- Remember to start with the closest person first then work your way up: student, teacher, principal, other resources (TAG representative, counselor, etc.).
- Schedule a time to talk with the teacher and listen carefully.
- Build a partnership with the teacher and the school.
- Share specific thoughts and ideas.
- Ask questions.
- Seek consensus – come up with a plan together.
- Schedule a follow-up meeting or check-in to support the process.

