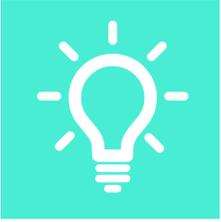


DEVELOPING SELF-EFFICACY



Help your children become life-long problem solvers and self-advocates by including them in solution finding when conflicts arise at home or at school. With your guidance, gifted children can learn to use their extraordinary abilities to successfully resolve the challenges they will inevitably face in school (and later in the workplace) when individual differences related to giftedness are not well understood or appreciated.

See It

Four characteristics we often see in gifted children are an unusual ability to communicate, remarkable problem-solving skills, surprisingly mature insight, and an ability to reason logically that is well beyond that of age peers. These traits associated with giftedness can be honored and cultivated when we help our children “know, understand, take pride in, practice, develop, exploit, and enjoy” (Torrance, 1981) their greatest strengths.

Do It

When our children come home from school complaining they are bored, it is tempting to commiserate. Unless the situation is untenable for even one more day, a better approach is to listen attentively to your child’s description of the problem and then calmly say something to this effect: “I can see you are really frustrated. What are some of the things you can do to make the situation better?” By resisting our natural tendency as parents to jump in immediately to remedy an injustice (in this example, curriculum that is failing to provide an appropriate level of challenge), you can help your child grow in ways that will have more long-lasting benefits than another few days of less-than-stellar curriculum will have negative effects. Acknowledge your child’s feelings. Affirm his or her sense of being treated unfairly. And, communicate your belief that your child is a capable problem solver.

More

- **Advocating for Exceptionally Gifted Young People: A Guidebook.** Davidson Institute for Talent Development.
http://print.ditd.org/young_scholars/Guidebooks/Davidson_Guidebook_Advocating.pdf (2011)
- **Helping Your Gifted Child Succeed,** NAGC.

PRACTICES.

AT HOME

