

Working in Partnership With the Schools for Your Child: Nine Things to “Round Out” the School Programme

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What to Ask of the Schools

- Meet the needs of all gifted children through
 - Daily challenge in areas of strength (>50%)
 - Consistent remediation in areas of weakness (<25%)
 - Regular attention to socialization/affective issues (25%)
 - Large blocks of time with intellectual/academic peers
 - Mixed ability peer time for open-ended, higher level activities only
 - Sessions on perfectionism, social skills instruction (fending off the intolerant)
 - Fast-paced acquisition of new content & skills
 - Compacting of regular curriculum to make room
 - Subject acceleration/ grade telescoping
 - Opportunities for competition, benchmarks of progress

Things You Must Do Outside of School

1. Provide opportunities, regardless of child's age, in the specific area(s) in which your child's talent and interests lie
 - Regional and local newsletters
 - Regional/ School/Community Resource Center
 - Talent Search programs (EXPLORE in Australia)
 - Museums
 - Camps
 - Educational Opportunity Guide (919/683/1400)
 - Special Schools
 - Parent magazines - Gifted Child Today OR Parenting High Potential Children

Things You Must Do Outside of School

2. Provide opportunities for socialisation with others of like ability or interests
 - Newsletters and Yearly Conference of Gifted Parents (?)
 - Interest Clubs or Competitions
 - Talent Search Courses
 - UMTYMP

3. Provide opportunities for socialisation with mix of adults and children of varying abilities, ages
 - Community Projects (B. Lewis, “A Child’s Guide to Social Action”)
 - Scouts
 - Nature Center experiences/classes

Things You Must Do Outside of School

4. Provide ways for child to understand own identity and uniqueness
 - Home projects instead of television
 - Private lessons
 - Direct moral/ethical dilemma discussions
 - Bibliotherapy reading (Halsted, Baskin & Harris)
 - Benchmarks of Progress through contests, competitions

5. Provide child with the “classics” of literature, philosophy, art, music, theater
 - Great Books Foundation, *Classics to Read Aloud*, Great Books, *Philosophy for Children*, *Child’s History of the World*,...
 - DBAE - Getty Museum
 - Performances

Things You Must Do Outside of School

6. Provide a variety of experiences that build fine motor skills, dexterity, and spatial visualisation
 - Musical instruments (non-blowing!)
 - Keyboarding speed
 - Painting and drawing lessons
 - Orienteering
 - Books on tape

7. Provide experiences that require memorisation and improving the ability to remember
 - “Committed to Memory”
 - Historical dates, facts
 - Scientific dates, facts
 - Geography

Things You Must Do Outside of School

8. Help your child learn to communicate precisely and expressively
 - Books on tape
 - Book discussions
 - Communication web sites (Voices of Youth, Deja News, Peace Pals)
 - Current events, social/moral dilemma discussions at dinner

Things You Must Do Outside of School

9. Teach child a variety of problem solving strategies to help in social, real world, and academic situations
 - Repertoire of jokes, ripostes, phrases for negative social situations
 - Evaluation grids (Creative Problem Solving)
 - Activities from *What Do You Stand For?* by Barbara Lewis, *What Would You Do: A Kids' Guide to Tricky and Sticky Situations* by Linda Schwartz
 - Scavenger hunts, Treasure hunts

Things You Must Do Outside of School

- 9+. Help your child feel comfortable in and knowledgeable about the world
- Backyard search
 - Behind the scenes tours of local companies, etc.
 - Travel books
 - Stamp, coin collecting
 - Map making
 - Travel

Final Survival Tactics

- Don't wait for the school to get things in place. Go ahead and start what you have asked for on your own (tutoring by an honor student, etc.)
- When requesting services from the school, go with a group of other parents who want this service too
- Insist on services within the school day. After school options send a message that this service is not important enough to be taught during the school day
- Start saving your money now for college and university. Your child may need to go early and there just aren't any breaks (scholarships, etc.) for bright children anymore (except for sports and music)