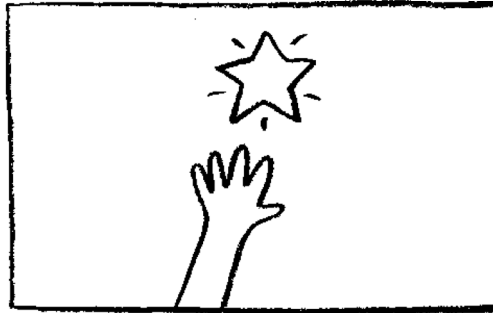


*Tasmanian Association*



*for the Gifted Incorporated*

***TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED INC. 1584  
(TAG Inc.)***

**Is a non-profit, parent-based organisation, affiliated to the  
Australian Association for the Education of Gifted and Talented  
(AAEGT)**

TAG Inc. holds regular Parent Support and information meetings; members are advised of dates by mail.

***Gifted children need:***

- Work at a level which provides some stimulation and challenge;
- Opportunities to meet and work with intellectual peers, helping them to recognise that while they may not be 'normal' within a small classroom, there are many others like them in the community;
- Opportunities to extend themselves in challenging situations to help them appreciate their full capabilities.

***Parents of gifted children need:***

- Advice and guidance on the characteristics of their children and positive ways in which their capabilities can be supported;
- Strategies for improving social integration;
- Recognition and support from the education system for the situation faced by their children and themselves as parents,
- Opportunities to share with other parents in similar situations.

## **Some Children Are *Gifted***

- Every child is important.
- Each child must be valued and nurtured.

- Every child has strengths and weaknesses.
- Each child is unique.

# Is *my* child gifted?

## ***Gifted children may:***

- walk and talk much earlier than children of the same age;
- develop early and exceptional language patterns;
- display extreme curiosity and ask complex questions;
- have an exceptional memory for facts, people or events;
- have poor fine motor skills
- have excellent powers of observation;
- relate well to older children or adults;
- have problems relating to children of the same age;
- exhibit behaviours which may result in their being confused with children with ADHD or Asperger's Syndrome
- have a well-developed sense of humour
- show early reading ability, which is often self-taught;
- have an early interest in mathematical concepts and patterns;
- be capable of abstract reasoning and problem solving;
- be highly motivated and have a long attention span.
- be more sensitive, feel things more deeply or intensely than others of the same age

**You may notice some or all of these characteristics along with other indicators of giftedness.**

**However, this is not an entire list of gifted characteristics and a gifted child may not display all these features at the same time.**

## ***Can my child enter school early?***

Some gifted children may benefit from early entry to school. If you believe your child requires early entry you should prepare a portfolio on your child including developmental milestones (walking, talking, reading and others) and samples of work that present a complete picture of your child's abilities.

TAG may advise you to contact the Principal Education Officer (Gifted Education) in the Tasmanian Education Department. You can contact the Department by phoning **1300 135 513**.

To view the current Tasmanian Government policy *Education for Students who are Gifted*, including guidelines for Early Entry and Acceleration, search the Tasmanian Government Website for up to date information. Applications for Early Entry should be lodged by the end of Term 2.

The Department of Education requires a formal assessment by an educational psychologist to supply objective information on his/her abilities and potential.

You may also phone TAG on **(03) 6227 9746** to discuss your child's needs and development.

### **Some Questions**

**Are gifted students enthusiastic and motivated about school work all the time?**

No! Many are, but some can become bored by lack of challenge and motivation in a learning experience. Some do not have their abilities recognised at school and some will drop out early, underachieve or misbehave.

**Are gifted students from a particular social group?**

No! Gifted students may be found in all sectors of society, regardless of race, religious beliefs, socio-economic background, geographic location or physical ability. Rather, it is the innate gifts and ranges of experience student encounters that will develop or restrict the development of their gifts.

**Do gifted students burn out?**

Gifted students will remain gifted but may display their gifts in varying degrees at different times in their lives. This can depend upon their experiences, stage of development, motivation, interest and support for achievement in their learning experiences.

**Are gifted students more valued than other students?**

No! Gifted students may be good at one or more areas, outstanding in some areas and weak in others. Gifted students can have skill gaps through the 'out of synch' nature of their physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. They should be valued in the same way as any child.

**Are gifted students born that way?**

Gifted children are born with the potential to excel in their strength areas. If the child's strengths are not recognised and nurtured at home, at school and by the community they may not fully develop.

## ***Need more information?***

Write to:

**The President**

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**GPO Box 1942 Hobart Tasmania 7001**

Email **office@tasgifted.org.au**

phone/fax **(03) 6227 9746**

visit our website

**[www.tasgifted.org.au](http://www.tasgifted.org.au)**