



TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED INC.

(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 email.

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.

Need more information?

**Tasmanian Association for the Gifted Inc
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Is my child gifted?

Children who are gifted have potential in one or more of the ability domains (intellectual, physical, creative or social) that places them in the top 10-15% of their age peers.

Developing this potential into talents or skills requires appropriate supports and environments

If you feel that your child may be gifted, here are some ways the Tasmanian Association for the Gifted (TAG) can help you.

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 your child will be at least 3 years and 6 months at 1 January and you believe your child would benefit from early entry you may contact TAG on 0488 291 497 to discuss your child.

You will be required to have formal assessment by an educational psychologist to supply objective information on his/her abilities and potential. TAG also recommends that you 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.

To view the current Tasmanian Government policies on gifted education, including guidelines for Early Entry and Acceleration, search the Tasmanian Government Website for up to date information. Take particular note of the date by when applications for Early Entry should be lodged.



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.

Do gifted students burn out?

Gifted students stay 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.