

# Gifted Education Strategies for Every Child

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"Helping parents homeschool high school"

***Know your child. Trust yourself. You are a love-giver, not just care-giver and educator***

## Introduction to Gifted Education

### Best Advice

- Know your child and trust yourself
- You have what it takes to succeed. You are a love-giver, not caregiver or just educator
- You have been chosen for this job, and they were chosen for you
- Balance social and academic needs
- Teach every subject at their level all the time
- Gifted education strategies will work for every child
- Socialization and maturity are not the same

### Definition of Giftedness

- What are gifted children like? Don't label every behavior as "gifted" behavior
- Definitions of giftedness
  1. IQ of 130 or more
  2. Top 2.5% of the on standardized tests
  3. 2 grade levels above age group
  4. "Capable of high performance"
- Gifted children learn more and faster and at an earlier age. Remember more facts and understand more abstract concepts. Have passionate interests and can do multiple things at the same time and still do them well.
- Consider having your child officially labeled "Gifted" with High School SAT in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Emotional, social, and family consequences, with increased access to resources.
  - Will in change what you do, or help your child?

## Techniques in Gifted Education

### Acceleration: "Go Faster"

- Pretest or assess and move ahead.
- Modify learning to increase challenge, authenticity, and active learning
- Teaching is not the same as learning
- Goal is to learn something new, not teach what they already know
- Spend less time on the subject.
- Example: End of chapter test, 80% correct, skip chapter and go to next end of chapter test

### Compacting: "Do Less Work"

- "If they don't need it, don't do it"
- "Most Difficult First" strategy: if they are successful in the hardest task, skip the easy stuff
- Eliminate busywork, or repetitive tasks.
- Determine what the students already know and what they still need to learn

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- Public school must provide enough practice for the least capable student to learn the concepts

**Enrichment: “Go Deeper”**

- Exposing to a wide variety of topics, issues, and activities beyond the existing curriculum
- Using methods and materials to promote critical and creative thinking
- Promoting investigative activities and artistic productions, first-hand inquiry
- We used piano lessons and Building Thinking Skills
- Math examples: math games, “Patty Paper Geometry”, and “Calculus Made Clear”
- English example: “Complete works of Jane Austen” instead of single books
- History example; supplements from The Great Courses

**Liberal Arts: “Go Wider”**

- Go beyond core classes of college preparation
- Think “Renaissance Man” and branch out.
- Go deeper into core subjects with “Honors” classes
- Go wider with broad exposure to varied subjects.
- Keyboarding is helpful to express ideas quickly
- Foreign language – consider Latin early
- English example: Novel Writing
- Include piano and other fine arts
- Formal logic or critical thinking

Planning Guide for College Preparation	
English	4 years
Math	3-4 years
Social Studies	3-4 years
Science	3 -4 years
Foreign language	2-4 years
P.E.	2 years
Fine arts	1 year or more
Electives	As needed
<b>Total credits: 20-24 or more</b>	

**Specialization: “Have More Fun”**

- Encourage them to follow their passion and interests
- Allow for independent reading and fun
- You don’t have to quantify their specialization or understand what they are talking about
- Example: consider school 4 days a week, specialization 1 day

**Perfect Fit: “Challenging not Overwhelming”**

- “Keep your children challenged but not overwhelmed in every subject area all the time”
- Assess Frequently
- Yearly standardized assessment tests can help you determine if you need to move ahead.
- Example: we used Spelling Power to pre-test level, used placement tests, pre-tested math
- Expect mastery, not perfection, they don’t have to do 100% before the move on.
- Learning to learn is a challenge

**Forward Momentum: “Do the Next Thing”**

- Be willing to keep moving ahead and do the next thing even in unfamiliar subjects
- Look ahead and know resources
- Homeschooling college level classes is possible
- Use multi-age curriculum when possible
- Don’t try to prevent learning
- When they are ready, give it to them
- Math example: “you shouldn’t teach young children algebra” is a myth

### **Find Curriculum: “Use What Works”**

- If it works keep using it
- Change curriculum only when it does not work
- Choose curriculum intended for homeschoolers
- Use self-teaching curriculum when possible
- Multi-age curriculum when possible
- Choose something where their learning level is on the low end of the intended age range.
- Example: if your child works at a 7th grade level, choose a 7-12th grade curriculum.
- Foreign language example: The Latin Road to English Grammar

### **Continue Home Education: “Be Flexible”**

- Avoid classroom setting and conveyor-belt mentality of steady-pace learning
- Avoid mixing academics and socialization
- Example: avoid being cooped up in a homeschool co-op or online classes
- Example: homeschool socialization benefits from homeschooling

### **Guidance Counselor: “Be Prepared”**

- Be prepared with records
  - Keep high school records current because situations change quickly
  - Transcript tips: “You don’t have to teach it, they just have to know it.”
  - Be honest and true, and it may go over one page long
- Seek tutors and mentors
- Be prepared for high school tests
  - PSAT in 11<sup>th</sup> grade is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
  - Prepare comprehensive homeschool records in advance of NMSQT
  - Study for PSAT in 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Incorporate math review and writing practice
  - Prepare for SAT or ACT
  - Consider subject tests to demonstrate knowledge

### **College and Career Ready**

- Expect dramatic changes because maturity happens, interests and situations change
- Face the future with maximum flexibility and life skills for independence
- Make plans and allow plans to change
- Homeschool until you run out of curriculum to maximize maturity level
- Consider homeschooling college
- Consider dual enrollment in college classes (Note: this is often “Rated R”)
- Make plans for college admission
- Apply to 4-8 colleges, “Reach, Fit, and Safety”
- Upper tier and Ivy league colleges are always “Reach”
- Look for the best fit. Consider a challenging “Fit” school with a great honors program

### **Find Peace within the Bell-Shaped Curve**

- You are a successful homeschooler if your child is performing to the best of his or her ability
- Children have innate gifts that can’t be changed
- Don’t judge your success or failure by your child’s position on the bell-shaped curve

## Opportunities and Resources

### Curriculum ideas

- Literature based curriculum like Sonlight Curriculum, and Tapestry of Grace
- Curriculum with placement tests like Saxon and Spelling Power
- Keyboarding so typing skills allow them to write as fast as they think
- The Great Courses for easily digestible college level courses: [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com)
- Coursera for intensely challenging college level courses: [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)
- Homeschooling college with CLEP and AP study guides and exams
- Most homeschooling options at home are much less expensive

### Special classes and programs

- Davidson Institute for Talent Development  
[www.davidsongifted.org](http://www.davidsongifted.org)
- Center for Talented Youth Johns Hopkins University (CTY)  
[cty.jhu.edu/ctyonline](http://cty.jhu.edu/ctyonline)
- Center for Talent Development Northwestern University (CTD)  
[www.ctd.northwestern.edu](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu)
- Gifted Learning Links by Northwestern University (GLL)  
[www.ctd.northwestern.edu/gll](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/gll)
- Stanford University Online High School  
[onlinehighschool.stanford.edu/about](http://onlinehighschool.stanford.edu/about)
- Talent Identification Program Duke University (Duke TIP)  
[www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu)
- Many options are much less expensive than gifted camps and special programs, including state and local colleges, online college classes, community colleges, CLEP and AP exams

### Resource Articles

- [Homeschooling at Peace Inside the Bell-Shaped Curve](#)
- [13 Tips for Teaching Your Gifted Teen](#)

### Coordinating Coffee Break Books by Lee Binz

- [Gifted Education Strategies for Every Child: Homeschool Secrets for Success](#)
- [How to Homeschool College: Save Time, Reduce Stress, and Eliminate Debt](#)
- [Upper Echelon Education: How Homeschoolers Can Gain Admission to Elite Universities](#)

### Reference Books

- [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#) by Jim Trelease
- [Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom](#): Strategies and Techniques Every Teacher Can Use to Meet the Academic Needs of the Gifted and Talented by Susan Winebrenner

### Websites for Parents

- Home Schooling Gifted Children Website [www.hoagiesgifted.org/home\\_school.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/home_school.htm)
- Gifted 101: A Guide for First Time Visitors [www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted\\_101.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted_101.htm)
- GT World is an on-line support community for gifted and talented [gtworld.org](http://gtworld.org)

### Record Keeping Resources

Solution for Homeschool Transcripts: [www.TotalTranscriptSolution.com](http://www.TotalTranscriptSolution.com)

Solution for Transcripts plus Course Descriptions: [www.ComprehensiveRecordSolution.com](http://www.ComprehensiveRecordSolution.com)

Reference Book: [Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions](#)