



# Giftedkids.ie

An Online Survival  
Guide for Parents  
& Educators of  
Gifted Children in  
Ireland





## About Us

- Launched in February 2008 after the Gifted Education Conference in D.C.U.
- Created in response to parents' frustration at the lack of resources for gifted children in Ireland and at having to deal with the general misconceptions surrounding giftedness.
- Supported by the **Irish Association of Gifted Children (IAGC)**.
- Since its launch the site has grown and had a great response from parents and the wider education community.
- **Scoilnet** Site of the Week – May 2008





## About Us cont/d

- The site is run entirely voluntarily with parents giving their time, expertise and support free of charge.
- It contains key information on giftedness, dual exceptionality, gifted education, assessment and local support groups.
- Each page has a list of associated links so that users can get “expert” information from the original source quickly and easily.
- We have a very active Gifted Community Forum, providing a vital lifeline to parents who need support. Our membership is spread nationwide.
- We hosted our first Giftedkids Great Day out at Dublinia in August which was a great success.





## Our Aims

- To provide support, advice and encouragement to parents of exceptionally able and twice exceptional children in Ireland.
- To work closely with the **Irish Association of Gifted Children (IAGC)** in providing strategies for families of exceptionally able and dual exceptional children.
- To provide online resources for exceptionally able and twice exceptional children in order to challenge them and help them reach their fullest potential.
- To engage with educators and where possible to help provide in class solutions for teaching exceptionally able or twice exceptional children.
- To promote early identification and intervention for gifted and twice exceptional children – key to positive outcome.





## Our Aims cont/d

- To help debunk some of the myths and misconceptions around giftedness and dual exceptionality and to promote greater understanding amongst the wider community.
- To act as an introduction to giftedness, gifted education and dual exceptionality for those parents and teachers who are beginning to explore these areas.
- To provide a secure online community forum where parents can share their unique experience of parenting a gifted or twice exceptional child in an environment which is wholly supportive and sensitive to their needs and experiences.
- To fully support the **IAGC** in all it's efforts to advocate for the rights to an appropriate and fulfilling education for the exceptionally able and the twice exceptional.





## Site Content

- The **characteristics** of an exceptionally able child
- The **myths and misconceptions** that surrounds “giftedness” and the “gifted” label
- **Dual exceptionality** and the challenges of parenting a twice exceptional child. (Aspergers, ADD, ADHD, Dyspraxia, etc.)
- The **assessment** options available to Irish parents when deciding to have their child assessed: ***NEPS, Private Educational Assessment and CTYI testing***
- **Supporting** an exceptionally able or twice exceptional child at home; helping him or her to embrace their talent and realise their potential





## Site Content cont/d

- **Local Support Groups** – how to make contact
- How to be your child's **best advocate** when dealing with their school and education authorities
- **Advocacy** groups worldwide
- The **latest news** and articles on gifted education
- **Reviews and recommended reading** for parents of the exceptionally able and twice exceptional
- **Kids' Zone** – a popular area where children can find fun online resources across a variety of subjects





# Giftedkids Community Forum

## 1. Parenting a Gifted Child

- **General Parents Board** – topics on parenting.
- **Accessing Education Support Board** – topics on dealing with schools, NEPS, SENOs, CTYI and Home Schooling.
- **Parenting a Twice Exceptional Child** – topics on parenting a twice exceptional child; those children who are exceptionally able but may also present with mild to severe learning difficulties or disabilities.

## 2. Teaching an Exceptionally Able Child

- **Educators' and Teachers' Board** - topics on gifted education where teachers and home schoolers can share their ideas and suggest resources.





# Giftedkids Community Forum

## Top Topics

- **Assessment Options**, particularly Neps and arranging a private educational assessment
- **Bullying** – from name calling to cyber bullying
- **Accessing additional educational resources**, e.g. resource hours or ad hoc learning support
- **Dealing effectively with schools** – a big challenge for parents
- **Fear** of being labeled a **pushy parent**
- **Sensitivities** and sensory integration issues - difficulty in processing sensory information, e.g. noise, light, textures.





# Giftedkids Community Forum

## Top Topics cont/d

- **Social and emotional issues** – difficulties with fitting in with their peer group
- **Secondary learning differences** – dyspraxia, aspergers, adhd, add, dyslexia
- **Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder issues** particularly around handwriting, organising homework and impact on successful exam completion
- **Underachievement** and boredom in school – causes of disruptive behaviour or non participation in class
- **Perfectionism**
- **Acceleration** in the Irish Education System





## How Teachers can use Giftedkids.ie

- **Refer Parents** of exceptionally able and dual exceptional kids, particularly those experiencing difficulties and who need support.
- **Use the information** and resources on the site to explore the area of gifted education
- **Use** the online resources in our **Kids Zone**
- **Join the Forum** - contribute to the debate and share their teaching strategies.
- **Contribute** articles for the site for the Educator's Section.







## Giftedkids.ie – The Future

- Site Redevelopment to include three discreet areas for Parents, Kids and Educators.
- To run more **Giftedkids Great Days Out** at various centres throughout the country.
- To provide more online resources for gifted teens.
- To support research into gifted education, exceptionally able and twice exceptional children.
- To develop online resources for gifted and dual exceptional children.



# Giftedkids.ie Homepage Screenshot



Home

Characteristics of the Gifted Child

The "Gifted" Label

"Giftedness" Myths & Misconceptions

Getting Assessed

Role of Centre for Talented Youth Ireland

Role of Educational Psychologist

Dual Exceptionality

How to Support & Encourage your Child

Education in Ireland - Resources

Role of School

Parents Forum

Kids Zone - Brain Games & Fun Stuff

Choose a Subject:

Gifted Gallery


News, Events & Reviews

Advocacy Organisations

Irish Association for Gifted Children (IAGC)


Local Parent Support Groups

Links




Supported by the IAGC

## A Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Children in Ireland



Everybody knows a bright child who works hard and is considered a high achiever in school. Typically these children are in the top 10 to 15% of intellectual ability; but what of the children who are in the top 5% category and above? It's this group that is sometimes referred to as **gifted**, **talented** or **exceptionally able**. These kids have enormous learning potential, but they stand out from their peers in three key areas; they learn **faster**, **earlier** and **differently**. In addition there is a growing population of children in Ireland with **dual exceptional**ity, i.e. their intellectual ability is often in the top 2% but they also have learning difficulties or sometimes profound disabilities.

So, what does the future hold for Ireland's gifted kids and their families? Does an exceptionally bright child mean an exceptionally bright future? Not necessarily. Parenting in itself can be daunting but parenting a "**gifted**" child can be incredibly challenging. Unlike many other countries there are scant resources available in Ireland for exceptionally able kids; yet, there are estimated to be over **20,000 children** who fit the profile of "**giftedness**" in this country. These kids often struggle in school, feel isolated and find it difficult to "fit" in with both their teachers and peers. This website has been developed by Irish parents of exceptionally able children, with the support of the **Irish Association for Gifted Children**, to help give other parents the **information, support and encouragement** to seek out the help they may need.



### What every Parent Needs to Know:

- The **Characteristics of an Exceptionally Able or Talented Child**
- The **Myths and Misconceptions** about Giftedness
- How to get your Child **Assessed** - accessing additional teaching resources
- How to **Support** your talented Child at Home - help him or her to embrace their talent and realise their potential
- How to Access **Other Resources** - Centre for Talented Youth of Ireland
- How to Let Off Steam - join our **Parents Forum** and share your experience
- How to be your child's best Advocate - tips for dealing with their **School**
- How to join the **Irish Association for Gifted Children**

*(This is not an expert site, it is run on a voluntary basis and as such is based on opinion and experience but we hope that it acts as a signpost for educational resources and other support services for Irish families with exceptionally able children.)*

*"I am neither especially clever nor especially gifted. I am only very, very curious." Albert Einstein*

*"All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents." John F Kennedy*

*"He never pays attention, he always knows the answer, and he can never tell you how he knows. We can't keep thrashing him. He is a bad example to the other pupils. There's no educating a smart boy." Thief of Time by Terry Prachett*

Recommended Reading ...  
Articles on Giftedness ...  
Latest News ...  
Current IAGC Newsletter ...

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