

## Mentoring Gifted Kids

**Where your child can explore, question, experiment, discuss, think, wonder, be challenged and learn ..... while having fun with like minds.**

Our children's program emphasises tailored, small group, face-to-face teaching with highly experienced gifted teachers. Using specific topics of study as a vehicle, we work with children to help them to:

- Understand themselves as gifted people
- Develop their gifts into mature talents
- Acknowledge and see their potential and perhaps a vision of how they may use their giftedness to contribute to society.

For further information, or to register for a program:

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**Unique, stimulating challenges for advanced thinkers**

## Gifted: which children are gifted?

Whilst there is no universally accepted definition of giftedness, 'outstanding potential and innate ability'<sup>1</sup> is a clear starting point.

A child may express this natural ability intellectually, creatively, socially and/or physically in ways noticeably different to children of the same age.

Although all gifted children have the potential to perform at a significantly higher level than their age-peers, their level of ability may be considered on a scale of mildly to extremely gifted. High to extreme levels of giftedness are rare, however about 10% of children may fall within the full range.

## How is giftedness recognised?

High potential for learning can be seen in children's characteristics and behaviours. You **may** have noticed some of the following:

- Requires less sleep than other children
- High energy levels
- Quirky sense of humour
- Advanced ethical and moral concerns
- Although able to achieve at a high level may not always do so
- Understands abstract concepts well ahead of others the same age
- Highly perceptive of own and others' feelings and needs
- Perseveres for long periods of time in special interest areas
- Gets on better with older children and adults
- Has an inquiring mind, highly curious
- Sets high standards for self, perfectionist tendencies
- Excellent vocabulary for age
- Able to solve problems quickly and often creatively

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<sup>1</sup> Gagné, F. The Victorian education department uses Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness & Talent (DMGT 2008) as a basis for developing gifted education programs.

## Do gifted children have special learning needs?

Gifted children flourish when their characteristics as learners are taken into account. Fast paced lessons with minimal repetition of content and instructions, which at the same time allow flexibility for digression, linking of ideas, concepts and experiences provide a learning environment in which these children thrive.

Gifted Insights' *Mentoring Gifted Kids* programs are structured to cater for the special learning needs of intellectually gifted children. A new subject/unit of study is generally offered each school term.

Units of study have a topical focus and cover a diverse and broad range of science and arts subjects.

The MGK program is conducted at school in regular school hours for small groups of children from grades one to six, usually for an hour each week.

## How do children become eligible for the MGK program?

Outstanding results in any of the following tests:

- Raven's Progressive Matrices
- ICAS – Distinction or High Distinction
- NAPLAN
- Educational Psychologist's assessment