

October: Parenting Your GT Child

EAST CENTRAL BOCES GIFTED & TALENTED FAMILY NEWSLETTER 2022

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR GIFTED CHILD

As you know, there are challenges in parenting a gifted child. There are also challenges and obstacles in educating a gifted child. As a former teacher who always tried to do what was best for each student in my class, I know I made mistakes and could have done some things better. As a parent, I was on the other side of the situation and learned quickly that advocating respectfully could be very productive.

Situations arise when parents should speak up on their child's behalf. If you have questions or concerns that your child is not receiving the programming they need, or if other problems exist, there are strategies you can use in order to be successful in your quest.

First, remember that teachers are human. In almost every case, the teacher is doing their best for your child and the rest of the class. Teachers want their students to succeed. Begin by reaching out to the teacher by phone or email. If that does not lead to a solution, ask for an in person meeting. Go in prepared, with notes if needed. Give examples of what you believe is happening or not happening. Be a good listener. Ask how the problem can be resolved. The article from the Gifted Guru, linked below, has a strategy for forming questions. Don't be afraid to get emotional, this is your child you are concerned about. But don't let your emotions turn to anger or disrespect.

As you advocate for your child, use those opportunities to teach them how to respectfully advocate for themselves. Talk about situations when they can speak up and ask for what they need and if needed, give them a chance to practice that at home before they approach their teacher.

Here are some resources:

[Six Steps to Take When School Isn't Meeting the Needs of Your Child](#)

Strategies from the Gifted Guru, Lisa Van Gemert

[Advocating for Gifted Services](#)

[Dear Teacher, My Gifted Child is in Your Class](#)

A sample letter to a gifted child's teacher from Celi Trepanier, author of the blog, Crushing Tall Poppies. There are several additional articles on the topic of advocacy on this blog.



STUDENT REGIONAL EVENTS

CELEBRATING WORLD OF WAVES

On September 23rd, almost one hundred 3rd-6th grade students from across our region participated in a STEM day. There were three separate workshops including Acoustics, Signals, and Human Body Systems; Making Waves in Earth Science; and Waves, Technology, and Innovation. Parents joined us for a presentation with Dana Clay on how to advocate successfully.

UPCOMING: SUMMIT EVENT

The Summit event is for 7th - 12th graders who are invited by their school GT coordinators. The upcoming event will be November 16th at Lincoln Health Community Hospital. The students will learn about several different careers in the medical field. More information will be sent to GT coordinators this week.



RANDOM, WEIRD, AND INTERESTING LINKS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

[The Kid Should See This](#)

This site is full of videos and activities that your budding scientist, artist, inventor, or creator will enjoy. You can sign up for a weekly newsletter with suggestions for videos. This site is safer than most as all videos are loaded onto the site so your child won't be sent out into the wild web using links.

[Set Game](#)

This is an online game that challenges players to think differently to find groups of three cards to make a set. The games change daily and the solutions are posted the following day. It's one of those games that can be fun for the entire family!

[KenKen Puzzles](#)

This is a puzzle site with a daily puzzle to solve. You can also create your own puzzles. Check it out!

[Wonderopolis](#)

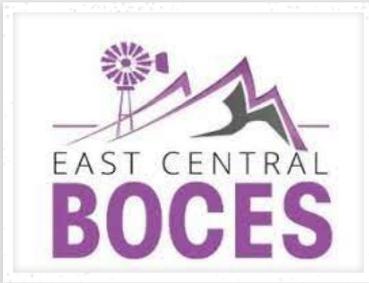
This is a site full of "wonders" for those curious kids who are always asking, "why?" This site is geared toward elementary aged students and has new topics daily. It's a great way for students to learn new vocabulary while learning about interesting topics.



RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

FAMILY BOOK STUDY

Watch for an email with registration information for an upcoming book study for parents of GT students. There will be another book study next semester.



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