

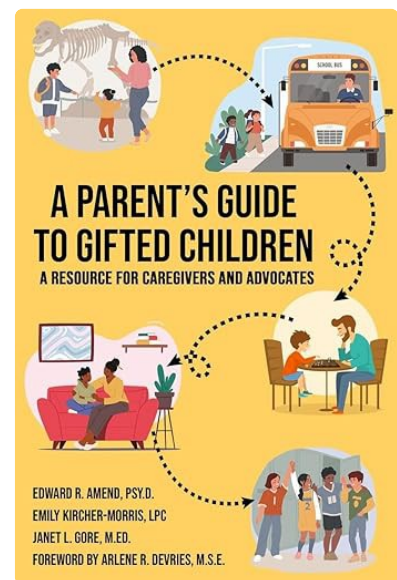
December: Parenting Your GT Child

East Central BOCES Gifted & Talented Parent Newsletter, 2023

Join an Online GT Parent Book Study!

This online, mostly self-paced book study will begin on February 1, 2024 and will end on March 8, 2024. We will be reading [A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children: A Resource for Caregivers and Advocates](#), by Edward Amend, Emily Kircher-Morris, and Janet Gore.

There will be no scheduled live meetings, just discussion board due dates. To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/GTBookStudy2024> By registering and accepting the free book you are agreeing to actively participate in this book study. Registration closes January 12th. Contact Jodi at jodic@ecboces.org with questions.



This Month's Hot Topic in Gifted

Creativity and the Gifted

Creativity plays an important role in giftedness in two ways. First, it is an area of strength in identification of giftedness. Second, allowing a gifted child time to be creative can offer many benefits.

The areas of identification in Colorado are: General Intellectual, Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, **Creative or Productive Thinking**, Leadership, Dance, Music, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Psychomotor.

One of the most common characteristics of students who qualify for identification in Creative or Productive Thinking is flexible thinking. These are the people who think outside the box and look for better or different solutions to problems. In young creative children, you may grow tired of them always asking "why?" In older children, a creative strength may lead to difficulty in completing assignments or answering test questions, especially when the options are multiple choice



answers. Creative thinkers often have a more correct or complex answer in mind than what is included in the options.

Other common characteristics of creatively gifted thinkers from the *Raising Lifelong Learners* blog:

- thinks independently
- tells or writes original stories
- comes up with multiple innovative solutions to problems
- has a great sense of humor
- is inventive
- is imaginative
- has a talent for improvisation
- enjoys being different
- may appear inattentive
- works well on his own schedule
- may be a risk taker

Another important aspect of creativity is the benefits it can have for students who are gifted in any area. Current research points toward many connections between positive mental health and creativity. Engaging in creative activities is associated with better mental and physical health. It increases resiliency, reduces stress and relieves work-related exhaustion.

Some ideas for stimulating creativity include:

- Drawing, sketching, painting, creating abstract art, and playing with new mediums or techniques
- Engaging with music
- Dancing and drama activities
- Expressive writing, journaling, and telling stories
- Scrapbooking
- Spending time in nature
- Observing the world around us
- Taking time to reflect, meditating
- Brainstorming
- Collaborating with other creative people
- Playing video games
- Breaking your routine
- Engaging in self-care
- Gardening and baking

If you think your child would benefit from creative activities, give them some choices to try. Good luck!



Ultimate Celebration: Celebrate Creativity

Almost 80 3rd-6th grade gifted and Talent Pool students from 11 school districts attended the Celebration event on Sept. 22nd. Artists from Think 360 Arts led creativity workshops including Calligraphy, Storytelling, Comic Book Making, and a STEAM activity. Students learned some new things, met up with old friends, and met new friends.

The next Celebration event will be offered by NEBOCES in February. District coordinators will have information in January.

Ultimate Summit: Technology in Agriculture

Fifty 7th-12th grade gifted and Talent Pool students from 8 school districts attended the Summit event on Oct. 17th. The students started at Prairie Ridge Buffalo Ranch in Limon. After a presentation highlighting how technology plays a role in their ranch operations we took a tour through the pastures and were able to get up very close to the herd. Before leaving, we were fed a delicious buffalo burger lunch. Back at the BOCES, Kelsey Pope, from a local beef cattle operation, shared an informative presentation, highlighting how technology is used in their operation.



Random, Weird, and Interesting Links for Curious Kids

As always, be sure to check out these links before sharing them with your child!

Fun Science on Youtube is a channel with science experiments and tricks geared toward elementary and middle school students. <https://www.youtube.com/@FunScienceX>

Chrome Music Lab is a website with interactive tools for learning music. <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments>

Smarter Every Day is a Youtube channel with interesting and informative videos showing how things work. <https://www.youtube.com/@smartereveryday/videos>

Geoguessr is a geography game in which players are tasked to guess locations from Google Street View imagery. <https://www.geoguessr.com/>

East Central Board of Cooperative Educational Services

ECBOCES, 820 2nd St., Limon CO

719-775-2342

jodic@ecboces.org



Jodi Church

Jodi is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters