

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. 1 cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

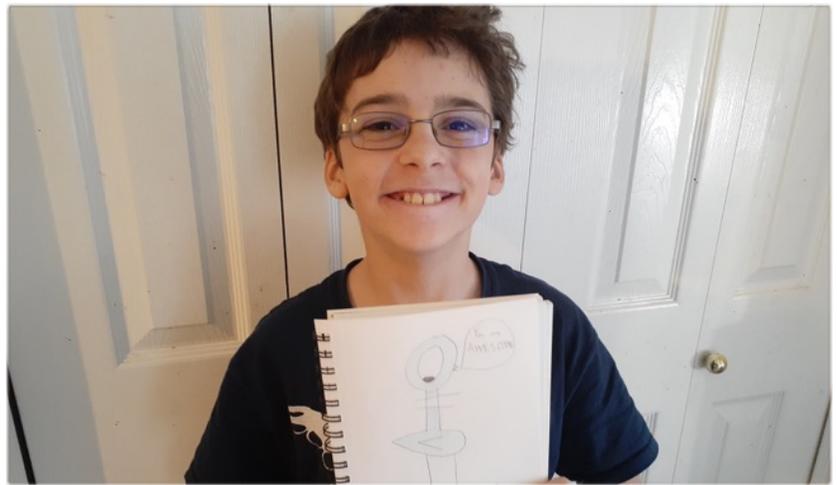


Why Games?

Games and toys provide a way for children to explore different ways of thinking, moving, and interacting with friends and family members. Gifted children enjoy many of the same games, like Monopoly, that other children enjoy, but their love of learning and need for challenge means that they will enjoy games where they can learn, show off their knowledge, and be challenged.

Unfortunately, it can be difficult to find the perfect item for your child because the manufacturers' recommended ages is often not correct for gifted children. Additionally, games that look exciting from the box, can be repetitive after one playing.

Strategy games are the best for gifted kids. If the game holds their interest, challenges them, and helps develop critical thinking, then it is probably a winner.



Creating Confident Learners

Students develop confidence in many ways, and those who are confident about their skills are more likely to engage in a variety of activities. Furthermore, research shows that students who have been successful in the past are more likely to believe they will be successful in the future.

To develop confidence, students need to recognize their successes and growth in specific areas. When teachers give students opportunities to revise their work, they promote this type of behavior. Students often view assignments or tests as a single snapshot of knowledge rather than considering it as part of a learning process. Students need to understand that any project may be enhanced with revisions and that a first attempt, is not a finished product.

Compliments should be specific to the skills students are acquiring. A specific compliment, such as, "You really used a lot of descriptive words in your story," provides more information to a student than a general comment, such as, "Good job."

Parents and teachers should also avoid unsolicited help, expressions of sympathy following a substandard performance, or praise after an easy task. Students believe that these responses are indicative of low ability (Graham & Barker, 1990). Also, receiving praise for work completed without effort may cause students to doubt others' beliefs in their abilities. This, in turn, undermines their own self-confidence.



Theater Arts and Gifted Children

When researching why theater activities are so great for gifted children, it doesn't take long to run into the fact that one of today's brightest Broadway stars... Lin Manuel Miranda was identified as a gifted child at an early age.

When *Hamilton* came to Broadway, many critics attributed its success to its inventive lyrics, music, and cross-cultural inspirations. Listening to the soundtrack, there are gifted traits and talents that are easily identifiable, including a passion for connecting ideas and categories, as well as word play, metaphors, and complex or abstract ideas. The musical also features complex and nuanced artistic and historical references.

Giftedness and the process of theatrical adaptation go hand in hand. Creating theater productions require the artist to adapt multiple works into one finished product by using high cognitive levels of analysis, evaluation, and creation and work simultaneously on multiple levels of output.

Having young children participate in theater and playacting is a way to develop interdisciplinary, adaptive, creative thinking. It may also be the start of a Broadway career!

Making a Difference By Giving to Others



This past week, Logan Reed's dad helped him set up their 3D printer to print mask straps to help ease the pressure on the ears from wearing masks for hours and hours for our medical professionals and first responders.

So far, Logan has printed more than 100 mask straps, and they have gone as close as Allen and McKinney hospitals and as far as the epicenter of the crisis, New York City.

Logan is a 6th grade AIM student at Lindsey Elementary.

Independent Challenges for the Week

This week's challenges are independent challenges:

- ♦ Draw a plan for a laboratory, studio or workshop where you could do all of your favorite things. Make modifications for your hobbies and interests.
- ♦ **STRONG TOWER**
Materials: stack of paper from recycling; pile of book
Build a tower that will hold as many books as possible, at least 6 inches off the ground.
- ♦ Learn about fingerprinting at [Scholastic Fingerprinting](#)
Fingerprint your whole family.
- ♦ Build a labyrinth using a cardboard box and popsicle sticks. Try to move a marble through the labyrinth when you are done. Do speed tests and graph your progress.

We'd love to hear from you! Share your challenges, questions, and success stories at [Praeditus Feedback](#)