

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. I cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

SCAMPER

Want to develop your ability to see things from multiple perspectives? SCAMPER is a tool to support creative, divergent thinking. It also is a checklist to help you open up your mind to a range of creative possibilities.

The seven lenses in the SCAMPER method include Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify (Also Magnify and Minify), Put to Another Use, Eliminate and Reverse.

An example of SCAMPER using *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*:

Substitute: What would have happened if there had been a Crazy Scientist Bear instead of Father Bear?

Combine: What would have happened if the three bears were returning from a reunion with relatives who had escaped from a zoo?

Adapt: How might the story have changed if Goldilocks had had a leg in plaster and was using crutches?

Modify: What would have happened if the bears had been cubs and much smaller than Goldilocks?

Put to another use: What if Goldilocks was only pretending to be lost and was really looking for an excuse to break into other people's houses?

Eliminate: How might the story change if there were no Father Bear?

Reverse: What if Baby Bear had returned home before the others?

It is not necessary to use all the steps in SCAMPER. Steps can be selected and combined in a variety of ways to match your thinking intentions.



Positive Self-Talk: Best Time is Now

After being stuck inside for so many of us are challenged to keep seeing the “sunny side of life”. For kids, and gifted kids in particular, it is easy to slip into negative self-talk and doubt. The reason gifted kids have it so hard is because of they are generally pretty hard on themselves.

Gifted children should be taught to think positively and have strong positive beliefs about themselves. This will give them the necessary hope they will need when they face obstacles in their day-to-day life and as they move toward goals.

There are a few key way to help kids develop positive self-talk. First, **model** positive self-talk by using positive thinking skills aloud when talking about yourself and others. Next, work with your child to come up with a **list of positive self-talk statements**. Your student could develop his or her Top Ten. Incorporate the list into a **visual format**. A fun self-talk bookmark or notebook cover will serve as a consistent reminder.

Discuss the value of positive self-talk with your child. Many people think that self-talk is silly but in reality it has a powerful influence on our moods and emotions. Practice **changing negative statements into positive ones**. One teacher eliminated the phrase “I can’t” from her class, insisting that students use the phrases, “I can’t yet,” or “I haven’t done this before.” A small change like this can make a big different in attitude. Finally, talk about **real life situations** and how every experience presents an opportunity to show how positive self-talk can help you get back up again when faced with a difficulty or disappointment.

Geocaching



Looking for a way to get outside safely and have fun? Consider geocaching. Geocaching is an outdoor activity, in which participants use a GPS or other mobile device to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. There are over 1,600 caches in Allen, Texas.

A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook. The geocacher signs the log and dates it. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where the person found it. Container sizes range from "nanos", which can be smaller than the tip of a finger to 5 gallon buckets. Larger containers may also contain items for trading, such as toys, ornamental buttons or trinkets. Food is not allowed in geocaches.

Geocachers obtain coordinates of geocaches, along with other details of the location on listing sites. They are free to take objects (except the logbook) from the cache in exchange for leaving something of similar or higher value.

Some websites allow geocachers to search for caches within a geographic area based on criteria such as ZIP code or coordinates. There are many free iPhone and android applications for geocaching so find a site, get some coordinates and get moving!

Art and Gifted Children



Gifted children by nature are intense. Art making allows them to decompress, expand upon what they learn, and share their feelings. Creative activities stimulate the brain in different ways than academic learning. However, what is learned in creative exploration often builds upon academic work. Art teachers will tell you that one of the best ways to determine a child's ability to skip count is to watch them weave. The patterning skills required for weaving are the same that are required for skip counting. Same with musical notation and mathematic skills.

By having children express themselves using art, they are being challenged in ways that they may not master easily. This helps build resiliency and problem solving. Adding creative arts to academics gives gifted kids a way to step back and breathe while learning new skills that push them further toward success.

Challenges for the Week

- ◆ Learn how to draw a labyrinth and check out Labyrinth resources for kids at [The Labyrinth Society](#)
- ◆ Create a stop motion animation video. First, write a script then find your favorite objects, dolls, or toys to star in the film. Finally, using a stop motion animation app (available on both Google Play and the App Store), film the video and view the results!
- ◆ Draw a new cover for your favorite book.
- ◆ Explore your creative side with [Bomomo](#) (a digital art tool) or [This is Sand](#) (a digital landscape tool)
- ◆ Complete an engineering challenge at [The Dyson Foundation](#)

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