

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. 1 cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

School's Out for Summer

While parents may be dreaming about sleeping in or relaxing around a pool, for many gifted children it's impossible to put their curiosity on the back burner, even in summer. How can you find the right plan for summer?

First, remember gifted children do not have to be busy 24/7 to have their needs met. Gifted kids are still kids. Start by talking with your child about his/ her ideas for summer.

Second, consider the types of experiences your child has had throughout the school year. Does your child need some downtime? Does your child need to spend time with other gifted kids?

It's normal for all kids to lose a little momentum over the summer—and gifted kids are no different. Don't worry.

- Build up your supply of creative materials—paints, clay, paper, glue, pastels.
- Science kits or at-home science experiments make rainy days fun.
- Camps and enrichment programs come in many shapes and sizes.
- New games or toys for the family offer new challenges.

Everyday activities can be a learning experience. So, this summer, be sure to squeeze in some campfires, bike rides, swimming lessons, and trips to the local museum, zoo, and library.



Get Outside and Start Gardening

In his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, author Richard Louv makes the case for nature-deficit disorder; a term he uses to describe possible negative consequences as children move indoors and away from physical contact with the natural world.

Researchers report that growing screen time increases children's risk factors for obesity, sleep disorders, social skills, educational issues and violent behavior. In contrast, spending outdoor time results in healthy, well-rounded kids who are inquisitive about nature's mysteries and the world around them.

There are so many possibilities for planning a children's garden and creating a fun, kid-friendly outdoor environment.

Start with, child-size tools. Little gloves, rakes and trowels make gardening more fun and give kids tools to take care of as well.

Create a plan. Research planting times for vegetable or flower seeds and set aside a sunny spot to create a garden, or begin with large containers.

Pick out live plants to transplant together. Read labels and talk about the conditions plants need to grow. Math is involved in calculating how far apart to plant and average days to maturity and harvest.

Create a container herb garden. Ask your kids every day to pick what you need for cooking dinner.

Invite wildlife into your yard. Add a birdbath or hang bird feeders and houses to teach kids about how the seasons change and the types of wildlife in our area.

There are loads of things you can do outside; so head out and have some fun.



Brain Teasers

Why are brain teasers including riddles, rebus puzzles and optical illusions such great activities for gifted kids?

Brain teasers teach people to think about problems from different angles, to evaluate information and to produce hypotheses in order to find solutions. By using this higher order thinking, students are able to apply those lessons to other subjects.

A brain teaser is short, often just a few sentences long or a single image, but to arrive at the correct answer you must think laterally or outside the box. This form of problem solving utilizes a more creative, less direct approach to the problem. It helps us find unique, creative solutions we might never have before imagined.

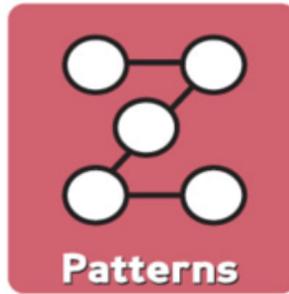
The brain is neuroplastic, meaning it has the ability to shift and change over time. You can mold your brain the way a sculptor molds clay and best of all, you can change your brain not just when you are young but for your entire life.

Brain teasers and puzzles enhance our mental fitness by challenging our brains to move beyond normal modes of thinking.

This week's challenges are all brain teasers, so start thinking!

Depth and Complexity Icons: Patterns

The depth and complexity icons are visual prompts designed to help students go beyond surface level understanding of a concept and enhance their ability to think critically. The icons were developed by Sandra Kaplan following extensive research into what types of knowledge distinguished experts in a field of study from those with only a surface level of knowledge.



This icon represents patterns. Patterns are recurring elements or factors in ideas, objects, stories, and events. They are predictable, repetitive and ordered. We see patterns in math, science, language arts... just about everything. Being able to move beyond simple identification of patterns to defining the cause and effect of a pattern or identifying relationships among patterns is rigorous and requires the ability to think critically. Look for patterns with your child and help grow critical thinking.

Challenges for the Week

All of the challenges this week focus on brain teasers and should give you lots of materials to use for the summer.

- ✦ Check out 203 fun riddles for kids at [Icebreaker Ideas](#)
- ✦ Your eyes won't believe these [Optical Illusions for Kids](#)
- ✦ Over 100 rebus puzzles at [Fun with Words](#)
- ✦ Online sudoku puzzles at [Kids Math Games Online](#)
- ✦ Crossword puzzles and word searches at [Lovatt's Puzzles for Kids](#)
- ✦ Math games and brain teasers at [Greg Tang Math](#)

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