

PRAEDITUS

Latin praeditus adj. 1 cl. meaning gifted

A publication of Allen ISD Gifted and Talented Services

Driving Me Crazy!

Sibling arguments are a normal part of child development. They teach kids the skills of negotiating and compromise but too much arguing can impact self-esteem. During times like these, kids sometimes get sick of spending time together. What can you do?

- Refer to your kids as a team. Give them team challenges like building a fort or doing a chore together.
- Help them develop emotional vocabulary. We do this at school. We call it "naming your feeling".
- Try to keep a distance and expect your kids to resolve their own problems. The exception to this rule is when arguments escalate to physical aggression or verbal abuse ("You're a stupid loser.")
- Keep your cool. It's tempting to yell, "Cut it out," and while it might shock your kids into silence, it does not model the behavior you want to develop in your children.



Too Much Togetherness

It is so nice to spend time together... until you've spent too much time together. This may be a huge challenge if you've got more than one child vying for your attention. Elementary age kids, especially the youngest, love attention... 24/7 is great. Besides wearing you down, it can create sibling rivalries. Here are a few hints.

- Remember, your child is in a class of 20+ kids at school. He or she is expected to function independently at least part of the time. Do not let your children suck you into sitting with them the whole time they do school work. Behave like a teacher... provide instruction, confirm understanding and then expect independent work. Check in and reteach if necessary. Praise lavishly for independence.
- Validate their disappointment in not seeing friends or participating in treasured activities. Schedule phone time or screen time with friends.
- Maintain structure so that everyone has responsibilities and expectations.
- Have a plan for diffusing tensions. Cool down spots, fidget toys, planned time apart.

By having a plan and honoring personal space, we can manage closeness.



Cooking for Growth

There are so many skills your gifted child will learn from cooking. Consider letting your child plan and cook a family meal. This teaches:

- Planning a menu
- Organizing supplies
- Measuring
- Food safety
- Food preparation
- Serving a meal (and clean up)

Once your child has mastered cooking, have them start inventing new dishes. *Kids Cook-Off...* here we come!



Brown Bag Challenges

Gifted kids love brown bag challenges. Fill a brown bag with random items. Hand your child the bag and give him or her a challenge. Here is a link to seven fun brown bag challenges: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/paper-bag-stem-challenges-week-for-kids/>

At-home School Spaces: Sending the Message



The real value of establishing an at-home school space is to help children understand that when they are in the workspace they are *working*. If you have limited space don't worry. It's not how big the space is, it's the fact that you create the expectation that school behavior and time use is the rule.

Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty

Need a good read for your third through eighth grader? This Texas Bluebonnet finalist tells the fictional story of Lucy Callahan who was struck by lightning. She doesn't remember it, but the zap gave her genius-level math skills, and ever since, Lucy has been homeschooled. Now, at 12 years old, she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass 1 more test — middle school! Lucy's grandma insists: Go to middle school for one year. Make one friend. Join one activity. And read one book (that's not a math textbook). Lucy's not sure what a girl who does calculus homework for fun can possibly learn in 7th grade.

Family Fun Challenges

- Calculate how many total gifts are given in the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."
- Calculate: You are offered a job that pays 1 cent on the first day, 2 cents the second day, 4 cents the third day, 8 cents the fourth day, and so on for 30 days. How much will be paid on the last day, and what is the total for all 30 days?
- Teach yourself at least five magic tricks. Host a family magic show for you to show everyone your new talent. Challenge everyone in the family to participate. You could even make fun snacks and see if the family can make them disappear too!
- Create a scavenger hunt of things you can find in your house for your family. Make sure you put some silly items on the list. A good scavenger hunt includes about 25 items.

We'd love to hear from you! Share your challenges, questions, and success stories at <https://forms.gle/UAvu1Q5JzCRzMVye8>