



Developing Your Child's Talent

After observing parents of gifted children, researchers came up with the following insights on how to effectively develop your child's giftedness:

Be involved in developing your child's giftedness.

Monitor your child's exercise and practice, or if your child is gifted in academics, check his or her homework. Share with them in a loving way your unique experience and knowledge in the area where they are gifted. You can also be involved in their practice. Sit down beside them at the piano while they are practicing, give praise or gently correct them or give them advice if necessary. Serve as motivation and encouragement for your gifted child's efforts.

Stress the importance of hard work and doing one's best.

Even the best talent can only blossom with hard work. Tell your child that there is work or practice to be done before they go out and play. In making your child spend time in practicing their talent, appeal to their love for the field and remind them of the rewards for being the best they can be. Challenge your child at the optimal level, but don't put too much pressure, especially if your expectation from them is unrealistic.

Ensure that your child makes productive use of their time.

Provide your child with an enriched environment.

This includes finding a good teacher to develop your child's talent, and making sure that the teacher is doing a good job. Put them in the best school you can afford or find a school where you can get free or low-cost tuition. Take the family to watch competitions or attend concerts so your child will learn more about their field and observe the performance of more advanced people in the field.

Expose your child to resources that make them stay interested and motivated in their field.

Subscribe to magazines; buy books, videos, or software that is related to their field.

Give them space where they can practice.

Convert an area of the house, like a basement or an attic where your child can have space and privacy to work.

Learn to judge your child's progress and assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Attend all of their meets, tournaments or recitals so you can gauge their developments.

Give rewards and praise for a job well done.

Decorate your family room with ribbons and trophies that your child has won or fill the scrapbook with newspaper clippings about their achievements. Stress the joys and pride in winning, as well as the satisfaction of doing one's best.

Teach them the values of setting goals and doing one's best to attain them, and establish priorities.

Tell them that they can only be good at one thing at a time. Defining a task and sticking to it is the way to excel.