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Learning Opportunities

Parenting a Bright/High Potential Underachieving Child

Dr. Jennifer Ritchotte

11/19/2015 - 6:30-8:00
Mountain View HS - Library
[3500 Mountain Lion Dr - Lvl d](#)

[Register Now](#)

Webinars

Greetings!

October is here and parent teacher conferences are around the corner.

Why is it that conferences invoke so much anxiety for parents and teachers?

Conferences create an interesting dynamic. Parents are often relegated to classrooms and forced to sit in tiny school desks, while teachers are required to communicate with adults as opposed to students. In the case of middle and high school, the interaction is often brief and a simple review of grades from the grade book.

It is often assumed that teachers have the onus of ensuring a positive conference experience. But let's be truthful here; parents of gifted students have a bit of a reputation. We can be a pretty tough group to manage. Parents, we have an equal responsibility for ensuring a positive conference.

This month, you will find tools, tips and resources to help you prepare for your upcoming conference.

Michelle Stout - GT Parent Liaison

Trust

Trust in our teachers is essential to respectful and productive parent-teacher communications.

"The teacher-parent relationship is a lot like an arranged marriage. Neither side gets a lot of say in the match. Both parties, however, share great responsibility for a child, which can lead to a deeply rewarding partnership or the kind of conflict found in some joint-custody arrangements." (Sara Mosle - The Dickey Parent-Teacher Duet)

Parents spend countless hours trying to figure out how to help their children get better grades, better teachers or better schools. Well-meaning involvement, however, can morph into questioning, micromanaging or challenging our teachers. "Today, teachers are being bashed everywhere they turn," says Liza Lee, head of the Columbus School for Girls in Ohio. "They're scared. They feel parents put their jobs in jeopardy. The parent is in the position of power."

[Continue reading The Dickey Parent-Teacher Duet by Sara Mosle](#)

[In Teachers We Trust: An Interview with Finnish Education Expert Reijo Laukkanen](#)

[Parents and Secondary Schools](#)

[Surviving the Difficult Parent-Teacher Conference](#)



[Seven Ideas for Meaningful Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

[Highly trained, respected and free: why Finland's teachers are different](#)

[If I'm so Smart, Why am I so Dumb? Understanding the Complicated World of the Gifted Adult](#)

Gifted adults often don't see themselves as all that smart. They can be uncomfortable with the label, know how much they don't know, feel like impostors and not live up to their high expectations.

October 6, 2015
7:30 - 9.00 PM Eastern

[Parenting, Organizing, and Understanding Your Gifted Child](#)

"I can take care of myself! How come you didn't wake me up? Navigating the Parent-Teen Relationship"

Oct. 27, 11:30 AM

Ted Talks & Video



Building relationships between parents and teachers



The dip: How to deal with the falling grades pattern

"The dip" is something that notoriously happens right around the 6th week of the semester (typically, this means there are 12 more weeks to go). Things pile up, a few missing assignments, a few bad scores, and suddenly, everything is overwhelming.

[Continue reading at Seth Perler.com](#)

Local Organizations



Join your Northern Colorado peers at this fall's first NoCo Gifted Community meeting.

Thurs., October 8 6:45-7:45 pm
Dazbog Coffee [1423 Denver Ave.](#)
[Learn More](#)

TSD GT Parents @MichelleStout19 · 35m
How To Weave Growth Mindset Into School Culture fb.me/7JeBcJD2j
View summary

Parent Institute - CAGT Conference

[The Many Faces of Gifted: Meeting the Unique Needs of Exceptional Children](#) - Expert Panel Discussion

Featuring:

George Betts, Ed.D. Professor Emeritus at University of Northern Colorado, Author, President of National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC)

Del Siegle, Ph.D. Professor at the University of Connecticut, Author, Co-Editor of Gifted Child Quarterly, Director of the National Center for Research on Gifted Education, Past-President of NAGC

Linda Silverman, Ph.D. Founder and Director of the Institute for the Study of Advanced Development and its subsidiaries Gifted Development Center and Visual-Spatial Resource,

Author Patty Gatto-Walden, Ph.D. Senior Fellow for the Institute of Educational Advancement & Co-Founder of Yunasa West, Author & Psychologist for the Gifted, Specializing in Holistic Health and the Highly Gifted

Lisa Van Gemert, M.A. Creator and Author of giftedguru.com, Educator and Consultant, Youth and Education Ambassador for American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation

Monday, October 19, 2015 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Embassy Suites Loveland - Hotel, Spa & Conference Center
4705 Clydesdale Parkway, Loveland, Colorado 80538

[Register Now](#)



Absolute No-No's!

When parents walk into the classroom for a parent-teacher conference, teachers instantly scan them for clues their about their attitude. Will they be friendly or hostile? Open-minded or rigid? Throughout the meeting, the parents' words and behavior paint a picture that will follow them throughout their child's career at the school.



Don't enter the classroom clutching a stack of your child's papers. This may indicate to at teacher that you intend to challenge him or her. If you must bring your child's papers, keep them concealed in a folder or in your purse until you have established a rapport with the teacher.

Don't criticize other teachers, the principal or the school. Your criticism will probably make the teacher feel defensive or mistrustful of you.

Don't criticize other parents or children. Keep your questions focused on your child. If you believe there is a specific instance of bullying or teasing, approach the subject calmly and prove specific examples and the names of witnesses. Remember, there are two sides to every conflict ant the teacher may have a perspective for which you are unaware.

Don't accuse the teacher of playing favorites or picking on your child. Outbursts about favoritism or boys over girls, one child over another, etc., will not help your child. On the contrary, they will make teachers want to avoid you, which may mean avoiding or neglecting your child.

Don't fib about your child. No child is perfect, and most conferences will include at least one or two criticisms about the child. Your denial and lack of support may put a damper on the



[Search Resource Library](#)



teacher's efforts to work with you child.

For Your Child's Future, Control Yourself! Your behavior in a conference will determine the relationship you want to build with your teacher. Do you want teachers to feel comfortable that you will support their efforts your child or will you push them away?

2E

**The 2e Journey from a Parent's Point of View
By Dan Peters, Ph.D.**

I am sitting at my oldest child's pre-school, attending the last teacher conference. Her kind and veteran teacher is telling my wife and me that our daughter is not picking up her numbers and letters as she should for kindergarten readiness. The teacher suggests we have her evaluated for a learning disorder. Although I evaluate kids for that exact issue, I tell my wife that our daughter is young, her teacher is over-reacting, and she will be fine. After all, our daughter is creative, imaginative, and says things and asks questions that are beyond her years.

I am now sitting at my daughter's kindergarten conference....[Continue reading](#)

Parent-Teacher Conferences



If we are about educating the whole child, parents and teachers must have positive communication regarding the child's development, including both academic and emotional growth.

Teachers bring expertise in content areas, curriculum planning, classroom management and student motivation. Parents have insights regarding the core of the individual's being, including needs, aspirations, interests, and strengths.

[See more at SENG](#)

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