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QUICK LINKS

www.australiangiftedsupport.com

www.starjump.com.au

www.nswaqtc.org.au

www.gifteddevelopment.com

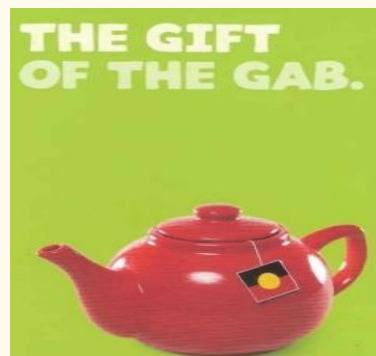
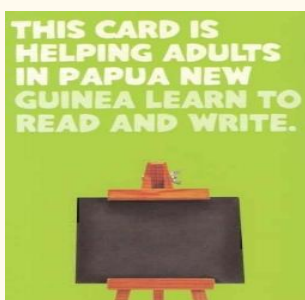
www.eyecanlearn.com

www.fortoptom.com.au

December 2011 update

Welcome to our December newsletter update, the final one for 2011. We hope that the past term has been a good one for your children and you are all enjoying the festivities during the lead up to Christmas and the summer holidays.

We would like to take this opportunity to send our Christmas wishes to all the members of our online group, clients, professional colleagues and supporters. Rather than sending cards or gifts we have again decided to purchase a range of Oxfam Unwrapped presents so that from all of us we are able to send valuable gifts to many people around the world who are far more needy. This is what we have selected.



We will be have a break over Christmas from 24th December till 8th January, so look forward to catching up with you in 2012.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

In response to many requests we are running our popular Social Skills programs for 7 - 10 year olds during the holidays. Visit the website to find out the dates and full details for the next **Stepping Stones Courses**

[Read More >](#)

High School Skills Course Thursday 19th January, 2012 10am -



CAMPS

Camps provide gifted children with the opportunity to spend time with likeminded peers. They can engage in interesting or challenging activities and fun social experiences which is vital for their wellbeing. Themes of camps range from Harry Potter to Time Travelling and incorporate activities around reading, creativity, space and science.

For the first time, AGSC is bringing camps to NSW, ACT, VIC and WA.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills are the foundation stone of a child's development. With better developed social skills children can have greater school success, increase their independence, interact with others more positively and establish and maintain quality friendships.

The Stepping Stones program is a specially designed course aimed to teach strategies to support gifted students in the development of pro-social skills, emotional regulation, anger management, friendship building, conflict resolution, anti-bullying strategies and 'getting along' skills.

4pm

[Read More >](#)

Other Holiday Activities

Check out our website to learn about a range of activities available in the holidays. This page is updated prior to each school holidays with activities we hear about. If you attend something that your children enjoy please let me know about it so I can add it to this resource.

[Read More >](#)

Also, Gifted Resources prepare a monthly newsletter and include a range of activities for children. You can request to be placed on their email list to receive this regularly. To check out this newsletter follow this link. While many of the activities are Victorian based, the editor does list things that are happening around the country and also many conferences for parents or teachers that are overseas.

[Read More >](#)

Article: Working Memory Training Update

Evidence shows that working memory is critical for academic success and has implications for:

- focusing appropriately
- shutting out distractions
- complex thinking

There are two ways to manage working memory deficits in the classroom. You can change the learning environment with good classroom strategies, and you can change the student with targeted working memory training.

Dr Susan Gathercole is known around the world as a leading authority in working memory and she recently spoke to us here in Australia to explain working memory and why it's important, especially for children.

[Watch a 3 minute video interview with Dr Gathercole >](#)

AGSC is a



We are able to talk to you about this evidence based cognitive training program which is suitable for pre-schoolers through to adults. For full details about this program visit www.cogmed.com.

[Learn More >](#)

Working Memory FREE Webinar: Invitation to learn more about Cogmed and other strategies for the classroom environment.

Working Memory is critical to academic success – What can we do to improve learning?

You are already no doubt aware of the impact poor working memory has on performance at school. What we would like to offer is an opportunity to start 2012 with access to more information about working memory and some

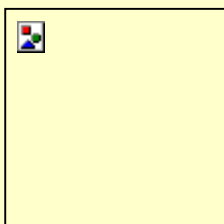
Our aim is to develop an individualized social skills program that is tailored to meet the needs of each child.

STARJUMP

Starjump creates Self-awareness in children by Teaching them to Accept themselves for who they are while Recognizing their strengths. Through teaching them how to Juggle life's challenges using their strengths they will Uncover their skills and be adequately Motivated to achieve the Performance /dream that they are aiming for.

The aim of the assessments is to identify and highlight strengths in your child and also any possible learning differences, or issues, they are facing that might impact on their development. These will then be analysed and a formal written report will be completed. This process will enable us to provide a comprehensive program that meets the specific needs of your child.

In addition to this we also offer a computer based literacy program which also offers access to modules in behaviour, emotions, social skills and attention. This program is suitable for all children who are not reaching their potential and is particularly visual in its orientation.



practical strategies and programs to help you address working memory deficits in the classroom.

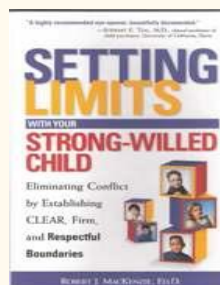
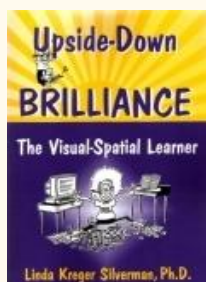
[Book in >](#)

Article: Strong Willed Children

A strong will, determination and single mindedness can be traits that we as parents appreciate will be beneficial for our children once they are adults, but they can be very challenging to live with in a youngster. While these characteristics can be very important in life, having the skills to use them in a socially appropriate way is also vital. Too much power in the hands of young children does not do them any favours and it can be quite scary. Children need to push the boundaries, but they also need those boundaries to hold, consistently and respectfully. Robert J. Mackenzie in his book *Setting Limits with Your Strong-Willed Child* addresses these important, often challenging aspects of raising gifted youngsters. He provides practical down to earth explanations and strategies. We incorporate these strategies in our [Social Skills courses](#).

[Find out more in this review](#)

Our Best Selling Books in 2011



Reference Books- AGSC has stocks available of both of these publications

[Order Now>](#)

**Fun stuff: Games to play in the car, at the shops or in tight spaces
Check out our past Newsletters for a wide range of ideas for the holidays**

[Read More >](#)

Website Review: Zoowhiz

This website link came across my desk and is worth a look. There appears to be the option for free as well as subscription activities. It also is designed for using either at home or at school.

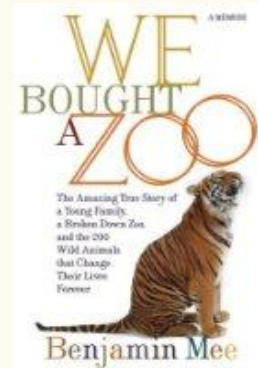
With the Movie "We Bought a Zoo" coming out these holidays it could be an interesting way to link some fun learning activities with a trip the the cinema. If you try it out and would like to send through a review we could share it with others in the next issue. We'd love to hear if you develop a creative way to link the activities with the movie.

[Read More >](#)

View a trailer of the movie>

"The film is based on a memoir by Benjamin Mee about how the author and his family used their life savings to buy Dartmoor Zoological Park, a dilapidated zoo, replete with 200 exotic animals facing destruction, in the English countryside."

Check out the Original Book We Bought a Zoo: The Amazing True Story of a Young Family, a Broken Down... (2008) by Benjamin Mee



Resources

We now have a range of fun educational games available from our Seven Hills Centre. For a full list and pricing visit the website www.australiangiftedsupport.com and go to the Resources page.

Now that we have these resources we will be offering a **regular discount** to those on our Newsletter Database.(Just bring a long a copy of the AGSC Update when purchasing)
Organise to come and look at our range or order by email (postage applies for all mailed orders)

Coming events - High School Skills Course Thursday 19th January, 2012 10am - 4pm

Organisational skills, exam techniques and stress relief for High School students!

We all know getting through each day at school can be tough, but this four hour workshop will help you power through your assignments and your exam preparation whilst leaving you with strategies to manage your own stress levels! This jam packed one day workshop will cover a wide range of practical strategies and skills to prepare your child for the coming school year.

[Read More >](#)

REGULAR AGSC EVENTS

**Friday Night Activity and Games Group Start again in February 2012
Last Friday each month
- Sydney 24th February, 30th March, 27th April, 2012 at our
Seven Hills Offices**

Activity night for 5 - 12 year old children with bright, inquiring minds and their parents.

[Read More >](#)

Webinar Series

Our 2011 WEbinars have are all available to now to be viewed.

If you missed these during the year the holidays are a good time to catch. These webinars provide a wealth of information about each topic including useful strategies for parents and teachers, along with detail of how our Starjump programs can be utilised to identify and assist your children. Topics include -

Webinar 1 - An Introduction to Visual Spatial Thinking and Learning.

Webinar 2 - Insights into the power of a comprehensive developmental assessment.

Webinar 3 - Visual spatial Picture Thinking and Literacy Learning

[Read More >](#)

- Social Skills : Stepping Stones Seven Hills

School readiness - for preschoolers eligible to start school in 2012.

Junior Stepping Stones - Children aged 5 - 7 (already at school)

Intermediate Stepping Stones - Children aged 7 - 10

Adolescent Stepping Stones - Children in Years 7 - 10 at High School

[Read More >](#)

NEXT COURSES

Location: AGSC @ Seven Hills

Holidays January 21 & 22

Term 1 March 3 & 4

[Book Now >](#)

[Book Now >](#)

Location: Melbourne
ACT

Term 1
Term 1

March 21 April 1
March 17 & 18

If you would like to go on the waiting list for any of the other courses and be advised once planning is confirmed please

[Email us >](#)

Camps

The format of the camp generally and the workshops particularly suits all gifted kids including 2e and GLD kids. Activities are very hands on and don't use traditional classroom approaches.

Book early to benefit from the early bird discount and avoid missing out.

Date Claimers for 2012 (Bookings will open shortly)

Perth - WA 13th - 15th April THEME: Around the World in 80 Days
GrassRoots Holiday Haven, Jarrahdale

Canberra - ACT 18th - 20th May THEME: Fun with Harry P and
the Professors Cottermouth Scout Camp ,Stromlo

Morisset - NSW 10th - 12th August THEME: Hogwarts comes to
Morisset WEC Camp , Morisset

Gembrook - Victoria Date to be confirmed for 2012 Gilwell Park

[Read More >](#)

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