



## IN THIS ISSUE

May 2011 update

2e Forum NSWAGTC

Article: Working Memory

Article: IQ Assessment

Coming Events

Understanding Giftedness

Friday Night Group

Freindship and Social Skills and Seminar

Webinar Series - Introduction to Visual Spatial Learning and Thinking

Fun stuff: Games to play in the car

Book Review:

The Shut-Down Learner

Social Skills courses

Camps

## QUICK LINKS

[www.australiangiftedsupport.com](http://www.australiangiftedsupport.com)

[www.starjump.com.au](http://www.starjump.com.au)

### May 2011 update

Welcome to our second newsletter update for 2011. We hope that Term 1 went smoothly for you and your children.

We have an interesting range of information seminars coming up over the next few months.

Topics include Twice Exceptional Students Friendship and Social Skills for gifted children, Introduction to giftedness and understanding Visual Spatial Thinking.

We are continuing to run our Friday night group and also have been busy with undertaking our Comprehensive Developmental Assessments.

### Don't miss this important EVENT

**NSW ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN Inc Presents 2e\* Forum - Saturday 14th May, 2011 at ACU Strathfield NSW**

\* Children of high intelligence with one or more developmental differences are sometimes described as twice-exceptional (2e) because they are exceptional in 2 ways. First, they are gifted (one exceptionality) and second, they have one or more additional special needs (the other exceptionality), such as a specific learning disability, a medical condition (eg, ADHD), a physical disability, a behaviour disorder or a social or emotional issue (eg, anxiety) - in short, the gifted child "with something else going on" which interferes with school achievement and/or social/emotional well-being.

The 2e\* Forum will provide an opportunity for parents, educators and other professionals supporting 2e children to engage in a day of learning, discussion, sharing and planning. Presenters will include leading professionals, classroom practitioners, parents and young people who are themselves 2e. The program will feature both formal sessions and informal discussions. The Forum will also generate a report on the importance of early recognition of 2e learners and strategies to lift the "lazy", "bored" and "naughty" masks to reveal the gifts beneath.

*Keynote Speaker: Dr Mark Selikowitz is a Sydney consultant developmental paediatrician. He has extensive experience in treating children with developmental differences and is the author of several books.*

**NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT IN YOUR REGISTRATION BUT NOT YET RECEIVED A CONFIRMATION PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY DIRECT EMAIL SO I CAN CHECK IT FOR YOU - we have discovered one or two glitches in receipt of faxed forms and don't want anyone to miss out.**

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### Article: Working Memory

Working Memory (WM) is the term used to refer to a brain system responsible for temporarily storing and manipulating information. It functions as a mental

[www.nswagtc.org.au](http://www.nswagtc.org.au)

[www.gifteddevelopment.com](http://www.gifteddevelopment.com)

[www.eyecanlearn.com](http://www.eyecanlearn.com)

[www.fortoptom.com.au](http://www.fortoptom.com.au)



## 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

workshoace that can be flexibly used to support everyday cognitive activities that require both the simultaneous processing and storage of information. Tracy Pakiam Alloway -

Educational Research and Resources Vol 1 (4), pp. 134-139, July 2006

[Read More](#)

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## Is Working Memory the New IQ? by Catherine Wikner

Follow link and scroll to bottom of page

[Read More >](#)

[Article:Some useful quotes and paraphrases regarding identification of giftedness and IQ Assessment.](#)

## Dr Taryn Bloom Sydney Child Assessment and Testing Centre.

"The IQ is just one way to identify a gifted child. Other measurements include: school achievement, creative behaviours, and teacher and parent evaluations. IQ scores are only a single statement of a person's overall potential. A person can be gifted in a creative sense without having an IQ above 130. Also, measures of IQ are not absolute. They may vary from one testing session to another by 5, 10, or 15 IQ score points depending on numerous factors. Some of these influencing factors are rapport with the psychologist, distracting noises outside the testing room, distractibility, tiredness, or the child's general well-being. A child who is tense or hungry or has a headache will not perform as well as one who is relaxed and feeling good." *Guiding the gifted child*, by J T Webb, E A Meckstroth and S S . Tolan

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Early identification of both giftedness and any of the developmental conditions that may co exist in gifted children, including working memory inefficiency, emotional issues, and ADHD is very important. In order to facilitate this when working with families we have always collected a comprehensive range of information about the child we are working with and this has become even more focused and precise with the introduction in 2009 of the Starjump Student Management Assessment System. For more information on this service visit [Starjump](#) and view the Introductory Video. This detailed screening assessment allows us act as case managers and suggest the most appropriate referrals and intervention strategies.

## Coming AGSC events -

### ACT INFORMATION SEMINAR- Understanding Giftedness - Answers to the Questions Parents Frequently Ask

Saturday 21st May, 2011 2pm - 4pm

at Scout Camp - Shakespeare Centre, Cotter Road, Stromlo ACT

The Columbus Group (1991) identified that the way we parent, teach and counsel a gifted child needs to be modified in order for them to develop optimally. 20 years down the track this is still true. Parents as advocates and counsellors of their gifted children need to understand the social and emotional needs as well as the intellectual needs that necessitate this modification. This workshop will look at how we can identify giftedness in pre school and primary aged children and some important strategies to nurture these children's strengths. We will also consider why some gifted children underachieve. The presentation will include practical ideas and opportunities for questions and discussions.

[Read](#)

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.

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 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 will also be starting to 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.

## [More](#)

### Friday Night Activity and Games Group 29th May 2011

We have run 3 of these evening so far with a small number of families attending each one. We are planning these next 2 and will then review if there is sufficient interest for the program to continue. Please let us know if you are interested in the program and have any suggestions about it.

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

The aim of the evening is to offer an informal opportunity of the children and parents to meet others, play some games, develop some friendships and have fun.

Tea, coffee and cool drinks will be provided.

TIME: 6.30pm - 9.00pm

VENUE: AGSC Offices Powers Road, Seven Hills.

COST: family donation of \$10 per family - pls pay at the door

To book visit [www.australiangiftedsupport.com](http://www.australiangiftedsupport.com) Children's Activities

### Information Seminar - Friendship and Social Skills for Gifted Children Wednesday 8th June, 2011 7.00pm - 9.00pm EST AGSC offices - Seven Hills

"The career of childhood is to develop social competence and friendships." Lavoie (2006)

Social skills are the foundation stone of a child's development and allow children to

- • interact with others more positively
- • manage their emotions
- • establish and maintain quality friendships.
- • experience success at school
- • increase their independence

This workshop will look at the social and emotional characteristics of gifted children and consider the impact precocity and asynchrony have on developing productive social skills and the establishment of quality friendships. To learn more about practical ways of helping your children develop these positive social skills, friendships and emotional regulation come along on Wednesday 8th June.

Presenter: Helen Dudeney -

[Read More and book](#)

### WEBINAR SERIES- We are excited to announce this new program. AGSC in conjunction with STARJUMP will be hosting a series of 6 Webinars during the rest of 2011.

#### Wednesday 22nd June, 2011 7.30pm - 8.30pm EST

Topic: An Introduction to Visual Spatial Thinking & Learning(VSL)

Do you have a child who is bright but experiencing challenges with their learning and performance and losing confidence at school? Then this is the webinar for you. Check out the list of characteristics on our website and learn more about the Webinar.

[Read More and book](#)

This Program has been designed in response to the many enquiries we receive from people keen to attend past workshops we have offered, but unable to do so due to distance, other commitments or finding out about them too late. We hope that



providing some of our Information Seminars in this format will assist those who would otherwise miss out. If there are other topics that you would also like us to include in future programs please let us know.

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### - Social Skills : Stepping Stones

We offer courses for Pre schoolers the year before they start school, for children 6 - 9yr olds and also 9 - 12yr olds and also a program for Adolescents' in years 7 - 10. Full details of the courses are on the web site [Stepping Stones](#).

**Location:** AGSC @ Seven Hills

If you are interested in our courses for Pre- schoolers, primary aged children or adolescents please send us an email and we will put you on the waiting list and once we have sufficient interested families we will confirm the next set of dates. The courses generally run on either Saturday or Sunday. Please let us know if you have a preference, or if either one suits. [steppingstones@australiangiftedsupport.com](mailto:steppingstones@australiangiftedsupport.com)

### Fun stuff: Games to play in the car



#### Redesign /recreate

Look around, pick out a common object and invent new ways to use it. Then imagine it many times larger, or smaller and think of more ways to use it. Could its parts be re-arranged to multiply its uses? What might a visitor from another planet. Redesign it by adding something, removing something, moving something changing the size of something. For those who love to draw, they could then illustrate their 'new invention'.



#### What's the Question?

Someone makes a one-sentence statement which answers an unknown question and the other person tries to find a question that fits. Encourage creativity and humor.

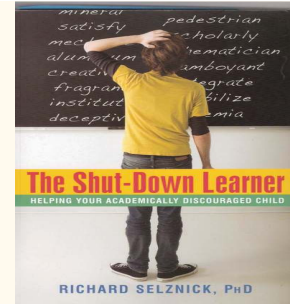


#### My Life

Ask your child to choose a year in your life (say, when you were five or ten years old). Then try to remember everything you can about that year, from who your friends were, to what you wore, to what you food looked like. Then choose a year in your child's life and see what they can remember about it. Add your memories to his for a more complete picture.

\*All these ideas come from Playing Smart by Susan K. Perry.

#### Book Review:



### **The Shut-Down Learner-**

**Helping your academically discouraged child.** by Richard Selznick this book was recommended to me by several clients as they found it the one that most closely described what they were observing in their child and also offered practical suggestions of ways to assist their child in succeeding at school and in life. In a friendly, non-technical style, the author helps them understand their child's characteristics and offers specific approaches to break the downward spiral. Having now read the book I can understand why they found it useful, and would recommend it to other parents and teachers who are working with a child that Selznick would describe as a 'lego kid'. Typically strong visual spatial skills and struggles with some or all aspects of language, reading, spelling, writing and sometimes oral communication.

### **Coming events - Camps**

Planning continues for the next 2011 camps.

**Canberra 20th - 22th May, 2011**

Theme: Mythology

To book visit [actmythologycamp.eventbrite.com](http://actmythologycamp.eventbrite.com)

**Morisset 17th - 19th June, 2011**

Theme: Harry P and the Professors - Hogwarts in the Morisset

To book visit [harrypottervisitsmorisset.eventbrite.com](http://harrypottervisitsmorisset.eventbrite.com)

**Morisset 16th - 18th September, 2011 WEC Camp**

Theme: - Space and Science

Details coming soon - save the dates

As usual there will be plenty of time for the low ropes course (at Morisset camp site), board games and free time.

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

**Victoria To be confirmed during Term 2 - watch the website or future AGSC Updates for full details**

All camps are filling up so book early to benefit from the early bird discount and avoid missing out.

[Read More >](#)

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