



# AGSC Update



Newsletter - October 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE

[October 2011 update](#)

[Article: Working Memory Training](#)

[Article: Introversion](#)

[Fun stuff: Simple Games](#)

[Website Review: NSW Association for Gifted & Talented Children](#)

[Coming Events](#)

[GLD Meeting](#)

[Friday Night Activity Group](#)

[Webinar - VSL and Literacy Learning](#)

[Social Skills Courses](#)

[Camps](#)

## QUICK LINKS

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

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

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

## October 2011 update

Welcome to our October newsletter update. We trust that you have all enjoyed a relaxing holiday break and are looking forward to the final term of the year.

In response to many requests we are running our popular Social Skills programs. Visit the website to find out the dates and full details for the next **Stepping Stones Courses** for preschoolers starting school next year, children in years K - 6 and adolescents in Y7 - 10.

We are also planning to offer a course for 5 - 12 year olds in Canberra and Melbourne during term 1 next year. If you are interested in either of these courses please send us an email and we'll advise you as soon as the details are finalised.

[Read More >](#)

## Murdoch University - Perth

I have just returned from my second block of lecturing in the Post Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education. This is the fifth year that this course has been offered and in Semester 1 this year we started offering a new elective, a unit on educating twice exceptional students. I believe it is the first unit of its kind on offer in Australia. All the students have successfully completed this now and the impact they have been able to have on the school communities they work in was evident in the assessments and PD sessions they conducted as part of the course. The next course is scheduled for Semester 1 2012.

[Read More >](#)

## Vice Chancellors Award for Teaching Excellence

In September I received a Certificate in recognition of being ranked in the top 10% of teaching staff for 2011, based on my student's surveys of teaching. This honour was especially important to me as I am passionate about educating adults and assisting teachers learn more about gifted and 2e students. I also recently learned that this course has one of the highest rates of students moving on the further post graduate study, Masters or PhD within the university. This is very satisfying as it means that a greater number of professionals will have advanced training about giftedness and more Australian research is being undertaken.

## Article: Working Memory Training

A number of our clients have already undertaken the Cogmed Computerised working memory training programme that we now offer. This is an evidence based cognitive training program suitable for pre-schoolers through to adults. For full details about this program visit [www.cogmed.com](http://www.cogmed.com). Some of the changes in behaviours families have reported so far include, greater confidence in school work that previously created anxiety or resistance. Improved skills in managing the frustrations of making mistakes. Less confusion when attempting homework maths sheets, the child seemed less overwhelmed by the work. Greater willingness to do homework and reading that the child finds difficult. Improved social interactions at school, less impulsiveness and better choices in responding to playgrounds demands. Ability to stay focused on a task, even if



## 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.

the child isn't excited about it, and to get it finished in a reasonable time. Both the children and parents report that they children are happy to do their daily training, without needing lots of reminding from parents.

[Learn More >](#)

**Working Memory Conference:** At the beginning of September I attended the working memory conference at CHERI at Westmead Children's Hospital. The papers from this conference are on the web.  
<http://www.cheri.com.au/presentations.html>

## Article: Introversion

Many people think of introversion and extroversion as how a person acts in the world and using this basis it would be difficult to accurately identify which personality trait applied to another person. Introversion and extroversion are about where a person gets their energy from not how they act. Unlike extroverts who get their energy and essential stimulation from other people, introverts get their energy and essential stimulation from within the inner world of their thoughts and reflections. This means that after a day at school where the child is constantly interacting with others, they need time and space to privately reflect and to process what has happened to them that day. Often they will not be ready to talk about their day until this processing has happened, this can sometimes take days. It does not mean that they don't like socialising, performing in public or having friends, it just means they need 'me space' to recharge the emotional batteries to be able to do this.

[Read More >](#)

**Reference Books-** AGSC now stocks 2 books by Marti Olsen Laney  
The Hidden Gifts of the Introverted Child  
The Introverted Advantage

[Order Now>](#)

**Fun stuff: Games to play in the car, at the shops or in tight spaces all taken from 101 Activities for kids in Tight Spaces (Carol Stock Kranowitz)**

### Apples are Red- for 2 or more people

Apples are red is a game of associations.

1. The first person makes a statement - like Apples are red.
2. The second player responds with a related idea.
3. The game ends when a player can logically restate the first statement.
4. Then another player starts a new game.

For Example Apples are Red.

Red is the colour of a fire engine

A fire engine needs a hose.

A hose carries water.

Water makes raindrops.

Raindrops make rainbows.

Rainbows come out in the sunshine.

Sunshine helps roses grow.

Roses are red.

Apples are red.

### Grocery Search- for 2 or more people one an adult

**This game can make grocery shopping more fun for kids and less stressful for parents.**

**Preparation :** Collect pictures of the produces you are going to buy. Have each

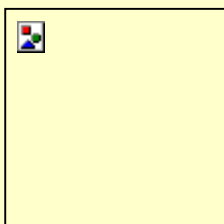
Our aim is to develop an individualized social skills program that is tailored to meet the needs of each child.

## 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.



one on a separate card. You could just photograph the normal products you purchase and print them off. Group the coupons so that the ones in the same aisle are together ( makes it easier to keep an eye on younger children)

**1.** Give 3 pictures to the child and send them to get the items. To add a maths component you could ask them to note the the price and tell you. If buying multiple products you could include some multiplication for older children. If children are sitting in the trolley they could be given one picture at a time and need to let you know when they see it.

**Variation:** Next time you are at a museum or art gallery, go to the gift shop first and purchase some postcards of items that are in the collections. Then go on an Art or Treasure Search, when you find it it will be like an exciting discovery.

### Waterdrop Doggies 1 or more people

Playing with a drop of water is an activity that is simply amazing and amazingly simple.

What you need: Eyedropper (optional)

Glass pie dish

Toothpick

Paper printed with words or pictures

Drop of dish washing liquid

Paper towel

**1.** With your finger or eyedropper put a single drop of water in the glass pie pan. This is the "Waterdrop Doggie"

**2.** Look closely at the Doggie, notice the dome like shape.

**3.** Push it around the pan with your finger. Push it with the toothpick.

**4.** Prick the Doggie with the toothpick to separate it into smaller drops - or "Puppies"

**5.** Push them back together to make one big Doggie again.

**6.** Hold the paper with writing or picture under the pan, and look at the print through the Doggie. The waterdrop acts like a magnifying glass.

**7.** Squirt a little dish washing liquid on the Doggie. Whoosh! The Doggie will collapse.

**8.** Touch the paper towel on the runaway Doggie. Goodbye Doggie!

### Website Review: NSW Association for Gifted and Talented Children

Since 1979, The Association has been serving the gifted children of NSW and their families and teachers. Earlier this year the association commenced a major upgrade of their website, membership process, on line services and benefits for members. Visit the website to learn more. If you are interested in being part of this important advocacy and support network, become a member or renew your past membership. The greater the membership base the stronger the advocacy voice and also the greater the services that will be available to all families with gifted and twice exceptional students. For those of you with 2e children, membership of the association also enables you to access the GLD yahoo group which is an exceptional community of parents, teachers and professional passionate about improving the outcomes for 2e children and adults.

[Read More >](#)

### 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](http://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)

For our first month we offer 25% discount on sales till 30th November, 2011  
**Fun with Sums - Addition & Subtraction** for children aged 5 and over RRP \$14.45 - our price \$11.50

**Countries of the World** - an Innovative Quiz game about 48 world countries (8yrs & up) RRP \$16.95- our price \$13.00

**Quiz Time II- India** RRP \$12.95 - our price \$10.00

Organise to come and look at our range or order by email (postage applies for all mailed orders)

### **Coming events - GLD Support Group Meeting - Advocating for Special Exam Provisions**

Ben Fogarty will join us to discuss the legislation which governs the BOS in their decisions re special exam provisions and which governs both state and private schools generally in providing classroom accommodations and modifications to our kids – ie, schools actually doing what the professionals' reports recommend. He will also look at the case which held that the special provisions must allow the child not only to merely access the exam but also to do as well as he could have, but for the disability – so for a gifted child, not just pass, but do well. He will give us information about what we need to support our case, and the importance of building the file from when the child is very little. This is useful to all families with 2e children, no matter how young your GLD child currently is.

[Read More >](#)

### **COMING AGSC EVENTS**

#### **Friday Night Activity and Games Group**

- Sydney 28th October & 25th November, 2011 Seven Hill

#### **Offices**

- Perth 4th & 25th November, 2011 To be confirmed - check

#### **website**

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

[Read More >](#)

#### **Webinar -**

**Visual Spatial/Picture Thinking & Literacy Learning -  
Take a look at the Unlocking Literacy Program.**

[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 6 - 10

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

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**Location:** AGSC @ Seven Hills November 5 & 6 2011 [\*\*Book Now\*\*](#)  
**Location:** Canberra & Melbourne Term 1 2012 -

If you would like to go on the waiting list and be advised one planning is confirmed pls.

[Email us.](#)

### Camps

**Gembrook - Victoria 11th - 13th November, 2011 Gilwell Park**  
**Theme: Around the World in 80 Days**

[Book Now >](#)

**Date Claimers for 2012 ( Bookings will open shortly)**

**Perth - WA 13th - 15th April, 2011 GrassRoots Holiday Haven,  
Jarrahdale**

**Canberra - ACT 18th - 20th May, 2012 Cottermouth Scout Camp  
,Stromlo**

**Morisset - NSW 10th - 12th August, 2012 WEC Camp , Morisset**

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.

[Read More >](#)

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