



# Questions answers and Resources

..... for families of gifted children .....



Every day, the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) receives questions from parents. Many relate to a gifted child's abilities, emotional development, or how to secure the best possible education. CAG's Parent Representatives have prepared this pamphlet to answer a few of the most frequently asked questions and provide some valuable resources.

**Q** ??????

How do I know if my child is gifted?

Compared to their age peers, gifted children usually learn at a faster pace, use a large vocabulary, ask many questions, and need activities that are complex and challenging. They may also be highly sensitive, creative, and intense. These are only some of the characteristics of a gifted child.

**Q** ??????

What is a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program?

In California, public school districts may apply for educational funds to assist in providing appropriate learning opportunities for those students identified as gifted and talented. A basic gifted program will include: testing to identify gifted students; grouping students within a class or for all or part of the school day by ability; providing curriculum that is challenging and allows continuous progress; developing social and emotional skills; training for teachers and administrators in the education of gifted learners; providing counseling and support for gifted students who are at-risk; and involving parents in the planning and evaluation of GATE programs. A written plan defining how the district will meet the needs of gifted children as articulated in the state GATE standards must be submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE) for approval for one to three years. To obtain a copy of the GATE Law, and/or a copy of the standards, link to CDE from [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org), call CDE at 916-323-5124 or 916-323-5831 or go to [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov). In some districts, Article 3 School-Based Education Code may apply.

**Q** ??????

How can I make sure that my child receives an appropriate education?

It is important that parents/guardians act as their child's advocates. Learn as much as you can about gifted education and the needs of gifted children. Familiarize yourself with the terms and definitions used in the various educational programs offered at your school or in your district. Inform the school about your child's special needs and then volunteer to help make sure those needs are met. Participate on your school's and/or district's GATE advisory committee or site council as a way to learn about and contribute to gifted education in your district. In addition, look for opportunities for your child to pursue special interests through community programs, summer classes or enrollment at the local community colleges.

**Q** ??????

How do I know if my school or district offers gifted programming?

Call the district office and ask if there is a GATE program. If one exists, request a copy of the state-approved plan as well as your school's site plan. If the district has not yet applied for GATE funds, offer to participate in developing a plan. Refer to CAG's handbook, *Advocacy In Action*, for step-by-step assistance in getting other parents involved. Order forms may be obtained through the CAG website at [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org) or by calling the CAG office at 562-789-9933.

**Q** ??????

Can a gifted child have learning disabilities too? Where can I get information?

Some gifted children have learning disabilities such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and visual or auditory processing difficulties. It is

sometimes difficult to identify the special needs of these children because they often use their high abilities to mask or adapt to their learning disabilities. For more information, access the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education at [www.ericec.org](http://www.ericec.org).

opportunities. Request literature and visit college campuses when on vacation. Participate in summer programs and other activities sponsored by universities. If possible, begin a savings or investment plan to finance higher education or other experiences to support your child's goals.

## Organizations

National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)  
202-785-4268  
Website: [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

World Council for Gifted and Talented Children  
818-368-7501  
Website: [www.WorldGifted.org](http://www.WorldGifted.org)

The Association for the Gifted (TAG) - a division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
703-264-9494  
Website: [www.cectag.org](http://www.cectag.org)

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted, Inc. (SENG)  
773-528-2113  
Website: [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)

American Association for Gifted Children (AAGC)  
919-783-6152  
Website: [www.aagc.org](http://www.aagc.org)

The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented (NRC/GT)  
860-486-4676  
Website: [www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html](http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/nrcgt.html)



Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Membership** (for mailing addresses outside the US, add \$15)

- Individual \$65       Institution \$65       Family \$75  
 Authorized Affiliate \$90       Patron \$500       Life \$1000  
 Limited Income (attach documentation) \$25  
 *Gifted Education Communicator* (subscription only) \$35

Role	Special Skills/Interests
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Art/Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Math
<input type="checkbox"/> Counselor/Psychologist	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Education Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### Payment Method

- Personal Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 District Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
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Charge:     MasterCard       Visa       American Express  
Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
\* CAG is active in lobbying efforts to promote appropriate education for gifted and talented students and assigns \$5.00 of each membership to CAG/PAC, CAG's Political Action Committee. Dues payments are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Mail completed form with check or charge information to:  
California Association for the Gifted  
15141 E. Whittier Blvd., Suite 510  
Whittier, California 90603  
Phone: 562-789-9933 Fax: 562-789-9833  
CAGOffice@aol.com [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org)



Why is raising a gifted child so challenging?

Gifted children often exhibit unique social and emotional needs that may include a strong sense of justice, extreme idealism, moral intensity, perfectionism, hypersensitivity, and unreasonably high expectations for themselves and others. They can be emotionally hypersensitive, such as to criticism, and/or physically hypersensitive, such as to touch and smell. Some may appear to be perpetual motion machines, or show wide swings in mood and maturity. Their vast emotional range can make them appear contradictory – aggressive and timid, mature and immature, arrogant and compassionate – depending on the situation. They may push the limits of rules at home and school, challenge their parents and teachers with constant questioning, and engage in risky behavior. The discrepancies between their physical, emotional, and intellectual development make parenting and teaching gifted children especially challenging. You may benefit from joining a support group for parents of gifted children as a way to meet others who share your concerns; if there are no groups in your area, consider starting one of your own.



How and when do we start planning for our child's future?

Begin now by developing an atmosphere of positive expectations, and help your child identify interests, talents, strengths, and weaknesses. Together with your child, investigate possible careers that could provide personal growth and satisfaction and explore options for the future. Look into mentoring or job-shadowing



Where can I get more information?

In addition to exploring the resources listed in this brochure, attend related events in your region. The annual CAG conference is an excellent place to gather information and other resources you need. Check our website at [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org) for suggestions of books and articles on gifted children. For additional assistance, contact your CAG Regional Representative. Names and contact information are found on the CAG website.



### Journals

- *Gifted Education Communicator*, published quarterly by the California Association for the Gifted, and available as a membership benefit or by subscription.
- *Parenting for High Potential*, published quarterly by the National Association for Gifted Children.

### CAG Publications

Order forms may be obtained through the CAG website at [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org) or by calling the CAG office at 562-789-9933.

- *Meeting the Challenge: A Guidebook for Teaching Gifted Students*
- *The Challenge of Raising the Gifted Child*
- *Advocacy in Action*
- *Advocating for Gifted English Language Learners*
- *Meeting the Standards: A Guide to Developing Services for Gifted Students*

### CAG Services

#### Mission

The California Association for the Gifted provides many valuable services including:

- Conferences and training institutes for professionals and parents
- Publications and handbooks addressing frequently asked questions and contemporary issues affecting gifted learners
- Parenting strategies to nurture giftedness
- Advocacy to assure funding for GATE programs

CAG is a mission-driven, volunteer-administered, non-profit association. For further information, contact the CAG office at 562-789-9933 or visit the CAG website at [www.CAGifted.org](http://www.CAGifted.org).

To become a member of CAG, complete and mail the application on this brochure.