

# How to Raise Gifted Children

Resources: <http://www.parenting.com/article/how-raise-gifted-children?page=0,0>

## The Power of a Parent

Perhaps we all have the potential to work miracles. Intelligence is 49 percent genetic and 51 percent stimulation, says Lawlis. Other experts agree that, if anything, environment (read: parental influence) has the edge. "We assume smart kids are born smart and you can tell practically out of the womb," says Rhee. "But I've seen it over and over again: You think a child will be a superstar...and he isn't. Or a child who was written off achieves tremendous things." It is a close call, as Brenneman points out: "It may be genetic—or maybe he's been learning from you." Here's what you can do to help your child not only get better grades but have more enthusiasm for learning.

**Talk, talk, talk** - Ask your kid open-ended questions, like "What would happen if we stopped for ice cream on the way to the beach?" Such questions help a child reflect on what he knows and tell him his opinion matters. Don't worry if he's too young to understand. Likewise, don't be afraid to use relatively sophisticated words, notes Brenneman. He may not understand them, but he will figure it out if the words are used multiple times in context. **Read, read, read** Research has repeatedly shown that access to books and one-on-one reading time is a predictor of school success. "Reading stimulates the brain to make connections and builds background knowledge about the world," says Kim Davenport, chief program officer at Jumpstart, a national early-literacy organization. "Reading is the foundation of all learning and will enable a child to absorb and apply content from all areas, including math and science." Modeling good reading habits may give him an edge. "Seeing his parents reading for enjoyment will be contagious," says Davenport.

**Praise results** - Stick-to-itiveness is a quality that will endear your child to teachers—and employers. We as a culture are so busy making kids feel good that we've lost sight of the time it takes for them to actually become good, says Rhee. "My kids both play soccer, and both stink. But judging by the trophies and ribbons that line their room, you'd think I had the next Mia Hamms here," she notes. It's hard to accept failure if you're constantly told you're the best. When these kids go to school and get a problem wrong, they think "It can't be me." Giving the right props is key, says Stephanie Rosales, a licensed educational psychologist in La Quinta, CA: "Children who are praised for solving a problem tend to be more motivated in school than children who are told they're smart. The latter, ironically, often become frustrated when something doesn't come easily." So instead of giving broad praise ("You're a star!"), give kudos for accomplishments ("I'm proud of how you found a different way to get the answer"). And if you're going to hold up a gold standard, make sure it's truly gold. Say "You're almost there. Keep trying."

**Luff Hosts Summer School**  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>

To enroll, please go to the Independence School District Website ([www.isdschools.org](http://www.isdschools.org)), click on the Summer School tab located at the top of the page. You will need your child's Student ID# (which is same as his/her lunch #) and your child's date of birth. The Summer School form will populate; please make any corrections and submit.

**You can call the Summer School number below and they will assist you in enrolling.**

**Friday Fun Day:** Kid's Safari hosts Friday Fun Days each Friday during Summer School. The cost will be \$15.00 for each "Friday Fun Day" that the student attends. (Transportation is **not** provided for this day!)

## Contact Numbers:

**Summer School:** [816-521-5599](tel:816-521-5599), ext. 10038

**Bus Transportation:** [816-521-5335](tel:816-521-5335)

**To enroll in Kids' Safari:** [816-521-5599](tel:816-521-5599), ext. 10007

**To enroll your child in a Pre-K program:** [521-5599](tel:521-5599), ext. 10008

