

TECHNIQUES PARENTS CAN USE TO FOSTER CREATIVITY IN GIFTED CHILDREN

1. Provide a working place where your child can make and leave a mess. Try not to interrupt the child when they are deeply involved.
2. Provide some flexibility around rigid schedules that allow for prolonged work periods.
3. Try to show your child how subjects integrate and blend together. Show how history and science overlap and utilize one another's facts.
4. Provide working materials, such as throw-away items, left over paint, etc.
5. Children can plan trips and make the map, plan the food and demonstrate they are needed family members.
6. Provide time for you and the child to be alone and have special activities.
7. Listen and encourage your child's ideas. It is important to share with them and provide opportunities for them to explore verbally what they believe and why.
8. Provide use of the kitchen, garage or workshop for experiments.
9. Go to the library often and discuss books with your child.
10. On family trips, make time for talking about what the child observed.
11. Creativity doesn't need expensive kits. The materials are in your home.
12. Be success oriented. Provide a positive atmosphere and activities that are geared to the child's level.
13. Avoid comparing children.

14. Make the most of current interests, but keep an eye open for new interests.
15. Encourage story-telling and imaginative games. While reading to your child, ask them to expand on the story.
16. Listen to their ideas and show that you use those ideas.
17. Pay attention to your child's needs and act upon at least one each day.
18. Provide your child with a camera, tape recorder or other materials to record their ideas.
19. Introduce the ideas behind research, what is a problem and how to go about solving it.
20. Encourage your child to talk with all kinds of people and to enjoy these encounters, such as old folks, neighbors, and visitors.
21. Display a positive attitude and share with your child why you or other family members are sometimes grumpy.
22. Provide opportunities to enjoy drama in plays, puppet shows or live television productions and encourage the gifted child to make their own shows.
23. Provide great music experiences for your child. Give lessons if they are interested.
24. Encourage puzzles, word games and chess.
25. Encourage the use of their memory through memorizing lovely poems, bible passages or short cuttings from books.
26. Foster a mature attitude in your child through providing opportunities for them to be responsible.