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Subject: AGSC Update - July 2011
Date: Sunday, 17 July 2011 7:48:26 PM

AGSC Update

Newsletter - July 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

[July 2011 update](#)

[Article: Working Memory Training](#)

[Article: Starting School](#)

[Fun stuff: Games to play in the car](#)

[Website and Magazine Review: Gifted Development Centre](#)

[Coming Events](#)

[Working Memory Conference](#)

[Friday Night Activity Group](#)

[Webinar - Identification](#)

[Holiday programs](#)

[Camps](#)

QUICK LINKS

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www.starjump.com.au

www.nswagtc.org.au

www.gifteddevelopment.com

www.eyecanlearn.com

www.fortoptom.com.au

CAMPS

Camps provide gifted children with the opportunity to spend time with like-minded 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.

July 2011 update

Welcome to our July newsletter update. We trust that you have all enjoyed a relaxing holiday break and are looking forward to the second half 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 offering courses for 5 - 12 year olds in Canberra on the weekend of 20th -21st August.

Organisational Skills and Exam Techniques Course In response to many requests we are pleased to offer this course for high school students in years 7 - 10.

This course will run on Sunday 14th August

[Read More >](#)

New Resources

We are pleased to announce that 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 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 31st August, 2011

Brain Busters 1 - 4 for children aged 3 and over RRP \$23.95 - our price \$18.00

Maths Whiz a fun way to learn maths for young children (4 - 8yrs) RRP \$20.45 - our price \$15.00

Tangrams RRP \$7.95 - our price \$6.00

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

Article: Working Memory Training

This was a topic we featured in our May Update and we are pleased to announce that we are now able to offer clients the Cogmed Computerised working memory training solution. 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

Working Memory Training can benefit anyone, but is especially beneficial for those with low or relatively low working memory as measured on an IQ Assessment (a score 23 points below other Index's on a WISC assessment is an indication of relative weakness and would be likely to have a negative impact on the person's learning) and also those with inattention and impulse control difficulties.

The following articles will assist you to learn more about Working Memory and Working Memory Training

Research Article: "Working Memory in the Classroom" by Susan E Gathercole. Poor working memory skills are relatively commonplace in childhood, and have a substantial advance impact on children's learning. This article describes the profile of cognitive and behavioural characteristics associated with working memory, methods for assessing working memory skills, and ways of supporting the learning needs of children affected by this problem.

[Read More >](#)

Research Article: "Working Memory Deficits can be Overcome: Impacts of Training and Medication on Working Memory in Children with ADHD" by Joni Holmes, S. Gathercole, M.Place, D. Dunning, K. Hilton & J. Elliott. This study evaluated the impact of two interventions – a training program and stimulant medication – on working memory (WM) function in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Twenty-five children aged between 8 and 11 years participated in study.

[Read More >](#)

Article: Starting School

School readiness is far more than being able to write or read, in fact these are probably the least important skills for success in those first weeks and months of school. For some bright, gifted children they have taught themselves to read, write and calculate numbers prior to starting school and that is wonderful for them and should be nurtured, but it is certainly not necessary for this to be the case prior to starting school. For all children including those precocious children who are reading or understanding maths there are a range of other skills that are far more important for a smooth, successful transition to the formal school setting.

Ian Wallace - Psychologist offers some useful tips in an article printed in Practical Parenting

[Read More >](#)

Dr Susan Johnson - Pediatrician offers some insights into the importance of sensory-motor skills in preparedness for literacy and school learning.

[Read More >](#)

Helen Dudeney - Educational consultant offers some thoughts about the decision regarding when gifted pre-schoolers should start school. This article looks at issues around early entry and also compacting years K & 1 into one school year.

[Read More >](#)

To learn more about school readiness and assist you preschooler in developing the skills for success attend our School Readiness program with you preschooler

[Read More >](#)

Fun stuff: Games to play in the car

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.

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.



Travel Doodle - for 1 or more people

1. Draw a place where you started your journey in the middle of a piece of paper. (A house, ten, hotel?..)
2. Add things around it that you see as the trip progresses. Draw the objects at the wrong scale and put them together in a fun, silly way to make a nonsense picture. For example you could draw a tiny little house sitting on top of a huge icecream.
3. You could make it more interesting adding colour or patterns with texta's or coloured pencils.

Idea - you could make it more interesting by making it a progressive picture by passing it around to others. This activity could be a useful starting point for preparing a travel journal at the end of the trip - or writing a journal for school. Great for those visual spatial kids who find translating ideas directly to words on a page so challenging.

Monster Heads - for 2 or more people

1. Each person draws a blobby shape for a monster's head in the middle of a piece of paper. they then pass their piece of paper to the next person.
 2. Everyone adds eyes to the head on the paper they have been given. then pass it on again.
 3. Progressively add, a nose, mouth, teeth, ears, hair etc
- Finally it goes back to the original person, who could give it a name and a body.
Idea - you could make it a robot monster by starting with a rectangle.

Quick-fire 10 - for 2 people

1. One person thinks of a category of things, such as countries, famous people, vehicles, animals or foods.
 2. The other person has to think of ten things in that category in one minute. If they succeed they get one point.
 3. Take turns to think of categories and the first to 5 points wins.
- You can change the challenge by making the categories more complex. eg - water sports, cartoon animals

*All these ideas come from set of cards produced by Usborne books -50 Things to do on Holiday.

Website & Newsletter Review: Gifted Development Centre

Since 1979, The Gifted Development Center (GDC), a service of the [Institute for the Study of Advanced Development](#), has served as a resource center for developmentally advanced children and their parents, and for gifted individuals of all ages.

They provide in-depth assessment, counseling, consulting services and innovative materials. GDC provides true expertise and experience with gifted issues and the unique perspective of looking at giftedness from the inside--as advanced awareness and emotional intensity--as well as often being out-of-sync with the rest of the world. They have helped over 5,000 families better understand and nurture their children's development. Parents have learned about their own giftedness as well. We have the only journal on adult giftedness, *Advanced Development Journal*, which has brought greater self-awareness to parents.

For the past 15 years we have been lucky enough to work with Dr Linda Silverman and her team on a range of projects. To learn more about the wealth of resources they offer visit their website. Earlier this year they launched an e-Newsletter, you can also join their mailing list and receive this useful resource on a regular basis.

[Read More >](#)

Coming events - Working Memory Conference

"Memory and Learning: What Works?"

Keynote speaker: Professor Susan Gathercole - The Centre for Working Memory and Learning, University of York.

Professor Gathercole is a psychologist with over 20 years of experience in research on memory during childhood. Professor Gathercole has written numerous articles and books for psychologists and teachers, including her book titled "Working Memory and Learning: A Practical Guide for Teachers." She has also developed several standardised tests that assess the memory functioning of children.

[Read More >](#)

Coming AGSC events

Friday Night Activity and Games Group

29th July, 26th August, 23rd September, 21st October & 25th November, 2011

Activity night for 5 - 12 year old children with bright, enquiring minds and their parents. Parents often ask about opportunities for their children to meet others with similar interest, abilities, temperaments and so we have scheduled some informal evenings this year. This is a chance for the children to get together with like minded peers to play board games, do crafts and other activities.

It is also a chance for parents to meet others who are experiencing similar delights and challenges in parenting their bright children - (it is not a drop off program).

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

Webinar - Identification and Assessment - Insights into the power of a comprehensive developmental assessment.

If you have a child or student who is not developing socially, emotionally academically as you would expect and are not sure why, then this is the seminar for you.

This webinar will address

The importance of a whole child assessment * Coexisting Conditions * Assessment Content * Referrals to Specialists * Prevalence of difficulties * Prioritizing Interventions * Further Reading

To book visit www.australiangiftedsupport.com

- Social Skills : Stepping Stones Seven Hills & Canberra

Four new Stepping Stones courses have been organised for Term 3.

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

Location: **AGSC @ Seven Hills**
Location: **Canberra - Final venue to be confirmed**

For full details and to book visit www.australiangiftedsupport.com

Coming events - Holiday Programs October 2011

Our programs for the October Holidays are now finalised and will be on the web site shortly. Workshops will be running at our premises at our Seven Hills centre. For those of you who have not yet visited our centre, it is just 20mins from the toll plaza at the beginning of the M2 at North Ryde/Macquarie (and you will be travelling against the traffic).

www.australiangiftedsupport.com

Coming events - Camps

Planning continues for the next 2011 camps.

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

Theme: Kid versus Wild

Gembrook - Victoria 11th - 13th November, 2011 Gilwell Park

Theme: Around the World in 80 Days

Date Claimer for 2012

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

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 2e and GLD kids. Activities are very hands on and don't use traditional classroom approaches.

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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