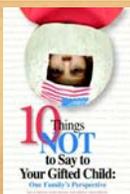


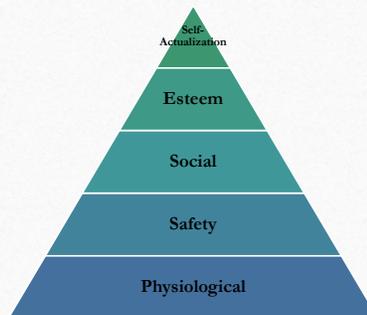
10 Things Not to Say to Your Gifted Child

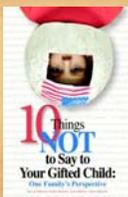
Daniel Brillhart, Gattis Elementary, Round Rock ISD



Three Principles

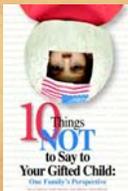
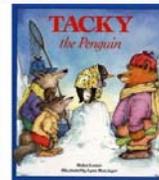
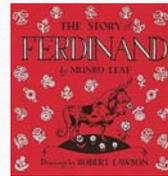
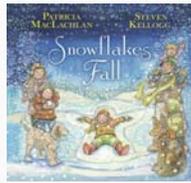
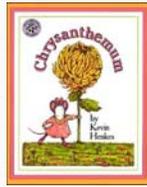
- Surround your child with unconditional love and a secure environment.





Three Principles

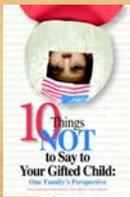
- Respect the uniqueness that is within each child.



Three Principles

- Identify and nurture your child's talents.





You're So Smart! We Love You!

Why not?

- Equates love with intelligence
- Equates self-worth with achievement
- Perfectionism
- Fear of failure

Instead...

- Emphasize the process more than the product
- Use targeted, specific (rather than general) praise
- Discuss the role of failure
- Focus on characteristics other than being smart

Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.

- e.e. cummings



You're Gifted; This Should Be Easy for You!

Underachievement

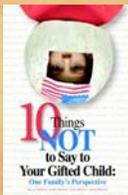
- Child feels he or she cannot keep up with the expected level of performance
- Boredom
- Fear of competition
- Giftedness in one area does not mean giftedness in all

Helping the underachiever...

- Learning can be enjoyable and useful
- The classroom can be a supportive and friendly learning environment
- Children's developing skills and abilities will enable them to succeed

I have always grown from my problems and challenges, from the things that don't work out...that's when I've really learned.

- Carol Burnett



Don't Be Silly! There's Nothing to Be Afraid Of!

Fear and Anxiety

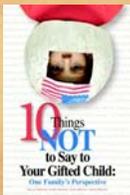
- Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities
 - Psychomotor
 - Sensual
 - Intellectual
 - Emotional
 - imaginational
- Asynchronous Development

Steps to Handle Fear and Anxiety

1. Listen and observe
2. Acknowledge the fear or anxiety and establish yourself as an ally
3. Help the child understand the nature of the problem and emphasize the positive
4. Reassure and decompress
5. Divert the child

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear.

- Mark Twain



Do It Because I Said So!

Challenges to Authority

- Overexcitability
- Asynchronous development
- Heightened awareness of social justice

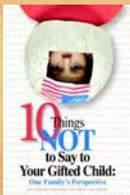
Solving the Problem...

1. Describe the problem
2. Focus on objectives
3. Brainstorm possibilities for solutions
4. Evaluate ideas and select a final solution
5. Agree to the consequences and rewards
6. Sign the contract

I cannot teach anything.

I can only make them think.

- Socrates



Why Don't You Make More Friends?

Socialization

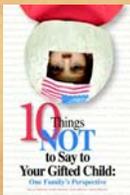
- Asynchronous development
- Prefer interacting with older students or adults
- Introvert vs. Extrovert

How to Help...

- Let your child be your guide
- Communicate with your child about their friendships
- Ensure your child has at least one good friend (their choice, not yours)
- Encourage extra-curricular activities or clubs

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too! I thought I was the only one!"

- C.S. Lewis



No More Questions!

Why?

- Kids like to challenge or probe the knowledge of adults
- Intellectual Overexcitability

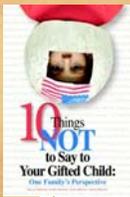
Strategies...

- Answer if you know...admit if you don't
- Honor and respect intellectual curiosity
- Create a "parking lot" for questions
- Teach children research skills

The cure for boredom is curiosity.

There is no cure for curiosity.

- Dorothy Parker



If You Don't Get Your Grades Up, No More Dance Lessons!

Selective Achievement

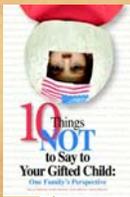
- Not underachievement
- Will do very well in areas that interest the child
- Giftedness in one area does not mean giftedness in all

Instead...

- Motivate to achieve something positive
- Don't take away a child's interest
- Understand achievement
- Insist that your child finishes an activity

I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it.

- Pablo Picasso



Don't You Want to Be an Astronaut?

Multipotentiality

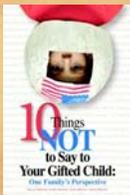
- Gifted in many areas
- Kids need guidance to choose a career
 - Strengths
 - Interests
 - Values
 - Goals

How to Help...

- Avoid steering towards one career
- Expose your child to a variety of activities
- Actively discuss strengths and weaknesses

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.

- Maya Angelou



If It's Too Hard, Then Quit!

Roadblocks to Persistence...

- Gifted kids sometimes lack the motivation to persist in a task
- Fear of failure
- Boredom
- Task mastery vs. task performance

Encouraging Persistence...

- Support your child through struggles
- Discuss importance of persistence
- Discuss failure in a positive light
- Encourage task mastery

Diamonds are only lumps of coal that stuck to their jobs.

- B.C. Forbes



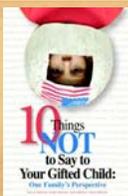
Can't You Color Inside the Lines?

Creativity

- Creativity crisis
- Creativity tends to be associated with the arts...when it is everywhere
- C – Creativity vs. c -creativity

Creativity defined...(sort of)

- Originality (new)
- Fluency (many)
- Elaboration (details)
- Flexibility (add to an idea)



Can't You Color Inside the Lines?

Helping Creativity...

- Creativity games
 - What if....
- Problem solving (CPS Method)
 - Fact finding
 - Problem finding
 - Idea finding
 - Solution finding
 - Acceptance finding

Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity,
wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that
reveals the human spirit.

- e.e. cummings