



Gifted/Talented Programs Parent Newsletter

LAUSD CORE BELIEFS: 1. Start with students, 2. Families are our partners, 3. Success in the classroom, 4. Diversity is our strength, 5. Effective teaching, leadership, and accountability are the keys to our success.

Nurturing Your Child's Creativity

Adapted from "Parent Talk" by Nancy M. Robinson
Gifted Education Communicator, Summer 2005

What is creativity?

"Perhaps the most useful way parents to look at creativity is as a habit of thinking and imagination that involves *originality, flexibility, and fluency*. It also involves *problem finding* (asking original questions) and *problem solving* (producing multiple solutions and non-obvious connections)."



- Greet children's productions receptively, even when they are "garbage."
- Recognize children's attempts as "experiments."
- Encourage multiple solutions.
- Encourage independence.
- Preserve free time.
- Preserve privacy.
- Teach skills./provide models.
- Provide "stuff" (tools, materials).

Why is it important to nurture the creative process?

"The creative process can yield unexpected ideas that tickle and delight and awesome products that are unlike anything children's peers are doing. It can also yield failed attempts, jokes that aren't funny, and inventions that don't work. Even highly successful creative adults create a wealth of poems that aren't worth publishing, mathematical proofs with fatal flaws, and compositions that no one wants to play. It is a necessary by-product of the process."

What can parents do to nurture the creative process?

- Create "safe space."

What else should parents know about nurturing creativity?

"Remember—there are many ways for gifted children to express their abilities. Some will be highly creative, and some won't. What you want for your child, as for yourself, is the courage to face challenges with a can-do attitude and to relish complexity."

Interested in learning more about educating your gifted and talented child?

Then please attend our one-day **Los Angeles City/County Gate Conference** on Saturday, December 17 at the Pasadena Convention Center. This year's theme is "Preserving Creativity: Not an Option-*Rethinking Curriculum and Instruction for Gifted Learners.*"

There will many exciting workshops for elementary and secondary teachers and parents covering such topics as nurturing creativity, encouraging curiosity, and meeting the academic and emotional needs of gifted learners.

The conference fee is \$95 for early online registration (lunch included), and \$120 for onsite registration (lunch not included). Register at www.centralcities.com.

Check with your school site administrator to see if funds are available for parents to attend this spectacular and informative event. Hope to see you there!

Be An Advocate for Gifted Education! Support the TALENT Act

"Limited federal leadership, coupled with a singular focus on grade level proficiency, has resulted in an educational system that too often fails to address the unique learning needs of gifted students and those who could become high achievers with appropriate supports.

The TALENT Act [which replaces the Javits Act] was introduced in the House and Senate by Representatives Elton Gallegly (CA-24) and Donald Payne (NJ-10) and Senators

Chuck Grassley (Iowa) and Bob Casey (PA).

Help us get support for the TALENT Act by asking your Senators and representatives to co-sponsor S.857 (Senate) or H.R. 1674 (House).

All members of Congress have online email forms where you can submit your co-sponsorship request. Visit www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

The National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) urges support of the TALENT Act to systematically ensure that all high-ability students, regardless of their zip code, are able to maximize their potential. The nation cannot wait to delay."

To learn more about the TALENT Act, visit www.nagc.org

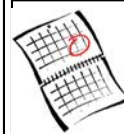


Los Angeles Unified School District
OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

333 S. Beaudry Ave.
25th Floor
Los Angeles CA, 90017
(213) 241-6500

LaRoyce Bell, District Coordinator
Dr. Lucy Hunt, District Specialist
Erin Yoshida-Ehrmann, District Specialist
Catherine Estrada, District Specialist
Wynne Wong-Cheng, Psychological Services Specialist
Yolanda Munoz, Secretary

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SAVE THE DATE

Los Angeles City/County GATE Conference

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011
Pasadena Convention Center
Visit www.centralcities.org to register (fee required).

2012 GATE/SAS Parent Meetings
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

District 1: Jan.30	Nobel MS
District 2: Feb. 9	Poly HS
District 3: Feb.13	Arlington Hts. ES
District 4: Feb.16	Kim ES
District : Feb.23	Nightingale MS
District 6: Feb.27	Nimitz MS
District 7: Mar. 1	122nd St. ES
District 8: Mar. 5	Taper ES

Free GATE/SAS Parent Conference

Saturday, May 12, 2012
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Virgil Middle School

TALENT

To Aid Gifted and High-Ability Learners by Empowering the Nation's Teachers

Key Provisions of the TALENT Act

- Changes to assessment and accountability systems
- Emphasis on classroom practice
- Focus on underserved populations
- Emphasis on research and dissemination