

## Teaching Skills to Young Gifted Children

(by O.S.)

I'm in the process of writing a second book of skills for very young children to complement the one I have for ages 7+ and adults - "Accent on Essential Life Skills."

In doing the research, I'm working directly with a 5 year old very bright boy. Reflecting on my experiences with K. and what I taught my own children, a number of interesting things are being brought to light that may be of benefit to others working with very young gifted children:

- it's important to have a good sense of humor with them. Laughter can help a youngster get out some of the frustrations caused by other children not being up to their level or not interested in what he/she is doing at perhaps a much more sophisticated level. Jokes, puns, and other plays on words develop understanding of metaphorical language.

- attention span can be short. In order to get something across, it will have to be done fairly quickly. Maintaining direct involvement will be a challenge while you teach them. It is amazing what does sink in.

- look for nervousness or fear of trying something new.

By acknowledging that you as an adult are sometimes afraid/ nervous when trying something new, they can better understand that most people are. Have them see that the next time will be easier and that that is when enjoyment increases.

- if there is a hesitancy in talking openly about some of their problems or frustrations, use puppets or talk about somebody else who they know who might have had a similar problem and needed to work out ways to behave, speak or think about the situation.

- carefully selected books can be used to further develop the skills you are trying to teach. Involvement in the story is safe because it is less personal when discussing issues and problems that others face.

- many skills can be taught around games that involve problem solving e.g. Tumbling Towers, Rush Hour Traffic Jam Puzzle, Pick-up-Sticks

- teach skills in small steps and add on.

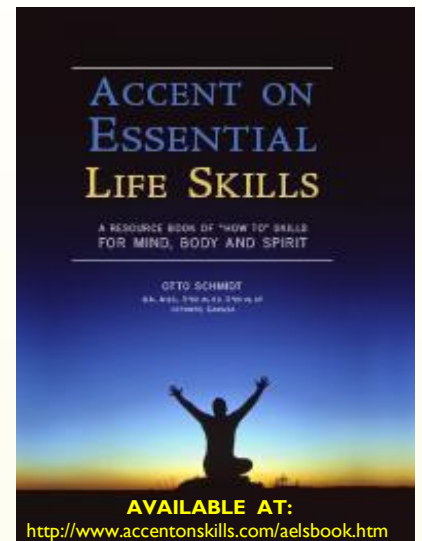
- passion develops if what they produce is valuable.

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### Amazing Websites

- Allah Made Me Funny** (a Muslim Comedy Tour group)  
<http://www.allahmademefunny.com/>
- Abandoned Asylums of the World** (eerie)  
<http://www.abandonedasylum.com>
- Creativity & Coathangers** (Amazing art!)  
<http://www.designboom.com/history/wirehangersreuse.html>
- Funny Software Downloads**(photo blends, mirrors, morphs)  
<http://www.freedownloadscenter.com/Search/funny.html>
- A Million Dots** (see what a million really looks like!)  
[http://www.vendian.org/envelope/dir2/lots\\_of\\_dots/million\\_dots.html](http://www.vendian.org/envelope/dir2/lots_of_dots/million_dots.html)
- Check if Your Website is Being Copied**  
<http://www.copyscape.com>
- 50 Coolest Websites in the World**  
<http://www.time.com/time/2006/50coolest/index.html>
- Museum of Odd Socks** (yes, this is real!!)  
<http://www.socknitters.com/museum.htm>



## News and Views

### For Your Calendar

Feb 1 – Full Moon  
Feb 2 – Groundhog Day  
Feb 12 - Sexual/Reproductive Health Awareness Day  
Feb 14 – St. Valentine’s Day  
Feb 18 – Chinese New Year (Year of the Pig)  
Feb 21 – Ash Wednesday, end of Mardi Gras  
This is also Psychology Month, Nat’l Pet Dental Health

### Fragging (from

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frag\\_\(military\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frag_(military)) - and from an article by Richard Gwyn in the Toronto Star)

**Frag** is a term that came about during the Viet Nam war. It refers to assassinating an unpopular member of one's own battle unit. A fragmentation grenade was often used because there would be no fingerprints, and also a ballistics test could not be done on it. A fragging victim could also be killed by intentional friendly fire during combat. The death would usually be blamed on enemy fire, and, due to the dead man's unpopularity, no one would contradict the cover story. It was often done to officers who sent soldiers on missions that were dangerous and seemingly without strategic value. In some cases, in Viet Nam, bounties were put on the heads of these commanders.

There is concern that fragging could become a possibility in the Iraq war. The usually proud soldiers of the American army may start to think they are risking their lives in an endless and similarly purposeless war.

They Dare Not Speak Its Name

<http://www.newdemocracyworld.org/War/fragging.htm>

### How to “Open Mouth and Insert Foot” on Valentine’s Day

- ♥ You made me love you. My arm still hurts from being twisted so far around my back.
- ♥ When I saw this huge, beautiful, box of giant-sized, chunky, lumpy chocolates, I bought it immediately because it made me think of you.
- ♥ I first thought it was Cupid’s arrow that you hit me with. Luckily it missed my aorta.
- ♥ I couldn’t find a Valentine card that was just right for you. A Google search failed to come up with anything. Go figure. Are you an alien or something?
- ♥ I’m glad Valentine’s day is in the winter. Your frostiness isn’t as noticeable.

### Waist - ed Gas ( based on article by Assoc. Press)

With gas prices going ever higher, many citizens can save money by losing weight! A study shows that Americans burn about 4 billion extra litres of gas yearly because there is so much extra weight in the car. Food and oil are now in competition.

The average loss per person may be relatively small but a driver who loses 100 pounds will burn about 68 fewer litres of gas per year.

For airlines too, heavy fliers cause higher fuel costs.

AOL Related News Story

[http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog/2006/10/lose\\_weight\\_sav.html](http://blogs.kansas.com/weblog/2006/10/lose_weight_sav.html)

Losing Weight

<http://homepage.mac.com/giarnellamd/loseweight.html>

### Counting to a Million (by O.S.)

Ever wonder what it might be like to actually count to a million? If you ask people, many will guess it might take a few hours or a day. The number seems manageable but in reality it is ENORMOUS!

A day has 86,400 seconds, so it would take 11.57 days at one number per second to get to a million.

Here’s the harder part. First, get a team of friends to provide food, water, guidance and encouragement around the clock for a long time. Each number is to be spoken, so a visual, reliable counter will be needed to prevent error. The speed of presentation will be a factor - very quick at the beginning and then slowing more and more with bigger numbers. Assuming a 15 min. break at least every 2-3 hrs to rest/read/eat/drink/bathroom (+23-34h), a minimum of 1 hr to sleep or nap during each 8 hr span (+34.7h), allowance for fatigue, boredom and loss of concentration on the larger numbers will slow counting to at least half speed in a few days (est. +30 hrs), a day off after 5 days to maintain sanity (+24h), this becomes an even more daunting task. (total 111.7 to 122.7hrs or add on 4.65 - 5.1 days) A calculation based on the above and allowing for error is 16-20 days.

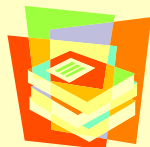
To count to a billion by seconds takes 31 yrs, 251 days, 7 hrs, 46 min, 39 sec.

OK, get that jaw well exercised and strengthened before you start. Guinness record here you come!!

**Somebody has actually tried to do it??** <http://www.43things.com/things/view/399395>

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### The End of the Telegraph and Other Inventions

(summary from

<http://www.trentarthur.info/archives/000983.html>)

The telegram has sadly become obsolete. Emails, faxes, cell phones, etc. have replaced it. Western Union sent the last one on January 27, 2006.

The telegraph was developed in France in 1791 by Claude Chappe. It was brought to North America in 1851 by Western Union. The first message was "si vous reussissez, vous serez bientôt couvert de gloire," meaning "if you succeed, you will soon be glorious."

The telegraph was most popular in the 1920s-30s when telegrams cost 20 cents - 60 cents.

In 2006, another famous technology also became obsolete. Polaroid stopped manufacturing SX-70 Polaroid film, which was extremely popular in the 1960s - 70s.

**Telegraph Machines Display in Electronic Museum**

<http://www.oneillselectronicmuseum.com/page4.html>

**Telegraph History** <http://www.telegraph-history.org/>

**Polaroid Art** (manipulating jell in the film to produce beautiful surreal art!!) <http://www.pola-art.de/>

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or visit [Http://www.willowacademy.ca](http://www.willowacademy.ca)

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[FORMERLY Educators of the Gifted of Ontario -Teachers Association for the Gifted of Ontario (EDGOTAGO)]

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**Register:** Teachers in regular classrooms with gifted children, gifted program administrators/coordinators & facilitators, and home schooling parents are encouraged to register with us. Give us your details and full contact information: [mail@edgotago.com](mailto:mail@edgotago.com)

**Communication:**

Use our website resources, subscribe to our "Gifted Voice" newsletter, attend our conferences. We can assist in all areas of gifted education. Share your ideas and concerns as we are also a member of a government special education advisory committee.

Our site is still [WWW.EDGOTAGO.COM](http://WWW.EDGOTAGO.COM)

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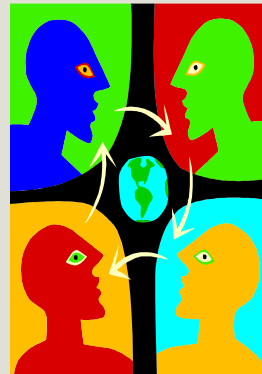
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### Computer Top Tip

If you want to learn a little of the basics of programming, and learn some of the simple maintenance rules and codes of programming, go to any internet site. Right click in an open space and look for "View Source" in the window list. It will show the full code written for that particular page. There is very little that can be kept secret on the internet! Some programmers who don't want to reinvent the wheel or like other's creative ideas just copy and splice different parts of finished web sites to create new ones.

### Russians Seeing Red Over Blue Lights

(from an article by Andrew E. Kramer, New York Times)

A car rental agency in Moscow offers a bonus to move renters around the city quickly - escorted motorcades. A real police car and two traffic officers cost \$900 US. There are sirens and flashing lights. Corporate chief executives and wealthy foreigners purchasing the service are rarely if ever stopped by police who are concerned about perhaps detaining people who are on truly important missions. Other drivers in the growingly congested city are

expected to move aside for what should be important diplomats and government officials. Abuse of the blue light is causing many accidents and deaths.

Ordinary citizens are outraged and are starting movements for laws to stop the abuse - they want the lights for police, ambulances and other emergency vehicles only. The government wants a limit of 1000 blue lights.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/11/15/news/journal.php>

- The brain uses about 20% of a resting body's metabolism (physorg.com)

- people suffering from job burnout are almost twice as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes. (livescience.com)

-on Nov 26, 1917, the NHL was founded. The first game was on Dec

### Tidbits of Trivia

19 in front of 700 fans. Montreal Wanderers defeated the visiting Toronto Arenas.

- Americans spend about \$300 billion a year on litigation.

- hummingbirds don't bathe; they shower while in flight.

- 1 of 4 patients told they have high blood pressure by a doctor have normal blood pressure after they leave the office.

- domestic dogs learn to bark from other domestic dogs.

- it costs more to run a death penalty through the US justice system than it does to imprison the convict for life.

- when the letters of Bill Gates III's name are converted to their ASCII equivalents and added up, they total 666-the Biblical number of the beast.

- bones of a 100,000 yr old camel as tall as a giraffe have been found by Swiss scientists in Syria.

### Interesting Reading

Hockey: A People's History (McClelland & Steward) based on the TV series by Michael McKinley.

Orphans of Winter by Rob Ritchie.

Ice Time: The Story of Hockey (Tundra Books)

Zamboni: The Coolest Machines on Ice by Eric Dregni.

Project MARS: A Technical Tale by Dr. Wernher von Braun.

[www.apogeebooks.com](http://www.apogeebooks.com)

(previously unpublished sci-fi book by the famous NASA Director)

### Great Literature Selected for Shared Discussion

<http://www.greatbooks.org/programs-for-all-ages/gb/gbseries.html>

**Canadian Award Winning Books** (national & provincial awards to books for young people)

[http://www.resourcelinks.ca/canadian\\_award\\_winning\\_books\\_2000-2001.htm](http://www.resourcelinks.ca/canadian_award_winning_books_2000-2001.htm)

### Classy Creative Fundraising for Charities

Everybody is familiar with the "Hansel and Gretel" style of gingerbread house. Here is an imagination stretcher.

Professional architects designed and built their own versions of gingerbread "houses" and then put them up for auction. They added novel touches, modern design elements and also a freshness to fundraising.

**See photos at:**

<http://www.thestar.com/News/article/124817>

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## Jokes of the Month

I was so ugly when I was born, the doctor slapped my mother.  
(Henny Youngman)

TV commercials now show you how detergents take out bloodstains, a pretty violent image there. I think if you've got a T-shirt with a bloodstain all over it, maybe laundry isn't your biggest problem.  
(Jerry Seinfeld)

A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells "You should have been here at 8:30!" He replies: "Why? What happened at 8:30?"

## VISIT:

**www.discoverteenergy.com**

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## What Will They Invent Next?

(from Costco Member Connection Magazine)

Darryl Green bought an RV that had very little bed clearance to the ceiling. He liked to read in bed but didn't want to lay sideways and prop up the book. Instead he thought that it would be great if he could lay normally but read the book sideways.

Green invented Bed Books. The text runs not from top to bottom but sideways from the gutter to the edges.

Check them out: [www.bedbooks.net](http://www.bedbooks.net)

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## Wise Words of Wisdom

"I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying." - Woody Allen

No one gets to choose their lot in life but we can all choose what we build on it.

"All that is gold does not glitter, not all those that wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien

"It isn't the mountains ahead that wear you out, it's the grain of sand in your shoe." - unknown

"Pace yourself...an elephant can be swallowed, one bite at a time." - Thanks to Dana Bidne

"If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it." - David Lloyd George

"They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel." - Carl W. Beuchner

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