

Methods Used to Identify Gifted Children

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As far back as 1974, parents were a good source of identifying gifted and talented. In general, however, professionals trained in using and interpreting tests do the final identification. (Contact schools & gifted support groups to locate these professionals.)

Group Testing

School systems vary widely in how they identify giftedness. Most have written identification policies and procedures available from the system coordinator for gifted education. Generally students are nominated for specific group screening. Sometimes students are selected for gifted screening based on group testing results of all students at various grade

levels. The pool of identified candidates from group screenings are then matched to the best fit between their ability profiles and levels of programming. Some school boards provide individual testing by school psychologists or other qualified professional, if necessary. Parents are usually involved all along the process.

Private Testing

Students who show promise but are somehow missed by a system's identification systems may benefit from private, individual testing, typically paid for by parents. Often only results from professionals licensed to give individual tests (like the Wechsler IQ tests) are accepted by the school system. Sometimes schools are allowed to have a preferred provider list of qualified professionals, but not always.

Who (outside the school

system) Can Test for Giftedness?

The first question to ask of the system is: What tests/scores will the school system accept for what level or type of placement? This will determine what type of qualification is required and determine who can do private testing. It is even important to know what version of a test the school will accept. For example, the WISC-IV IQ test has replaced the older WISC-III IQ. Also, in some districts, specialized interpretation of a certain cluster of WISC-IV subtests is allowed which can increase or decrease the number of identified gifted. The use of certain tests (usually individual IQ tests) is often limited to licensed professionals.

If private testing is accepted and sought, find out ahead of time how long the testing will take, when the results will be provided and when a formal written report will be available. Also ask the private practitioner about the distribution of the report to various school personnel or does the parent send the copy of the report to the school.

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Amazing Websites

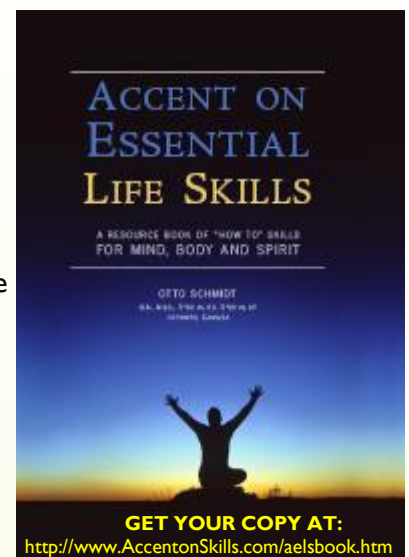
Find Any Written Article (over 10 million on file)
<http://findarticles.com/>

The Information Revolution (amazing video)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4CV05HyAbM>

Do You Know? (Growth and progress in the world today) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMcfrLYDm2U>

Sample over 1.8 Million Music Tracks (Wow!!)
<http://payplay.fm/browse>

Garden Art (made from junk. Very creative!)
<http://decorativeartsbyjep.com/Garden-Art-From-Junk.html>



News and Views

Let's Celebrate!

- June 1 – World Milk Day, Int'l Children's Day, Canadian Armed Forces Day
 - June 4 – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, Clean Air Day
 - June 5 – World Environment Day
 - June 12 - world Day Against Child Labor
 - June 15 - Father's Day
 - June 17 – World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
 - June 20 – World Refugee Day
 - June 21 – Nat'l Aboriginal/First Nations Day
 - June 21 – first day of summer Longest day in the year in northern hemisphere - solstice.
 - June 24 – St. Jean de Baptiste Day (Quebec)
 - June 26 – International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
 - June 26 – U.N. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- This is also the month for special recognition of: Brain Injury, Adopt-a-Cat, Dairy, Great Outdoors, Fireworks Safety, Bikes, Seniors.

Top Ten Dance Movies

1. Dirty Dancing
2. Billy Elliot
3. Grease
4. Chicago
5. Flashdance
6. Footloose
7. Moulin Rouge
8. Shall We Dance
9. Save the Last Dance
10. Step Up

Honourable Mention:

Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights

Fuel, Cars, and the Environment (by O.S.)

It is time to expose a massive fraud and concealment of solutions to big problems. Despite what we hear, there must be many car-related inventions that actually do work but are not allowed onto the market for many reasons.

From all I've read about fuel efficiency and clean cars, it seems so obvious that the emphasis is in the wrong place. Why is it that engines and fuel don't get more attention? We are not about to get rid of cars but we can make massive engine changes and the way gasoline is burned.

Gasoline is not the only issue. Why do we allow car engines to be engineered to use only about 30-35% of fuel energy when home furnaces can get 90% efficiency and higher? Don't be fooled, the technology is out there!

Let's look at some ways that we can rethink engines and fuel use. Emphasis should be on increased output from existing fuel and also the dynamics, cleanliness and efficiency of the engines. More power from less fuel also means a cleaner environment:

1. In the Philippines there is a man who has developed an engine using only water and electrolysis. This is worth more than a casual look.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwaFDNQ9U0>

See also <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7ZZAfZnvog>

Why are people not researching this further and getting the technology into the market? Where are the creative mechanics? Where are the inventors and hobbyists that delve into these things?

2. See <http://www.himacresearch.com> for a fuel conversion carburetion system that attaches to a fuel line, heats the gasoline to about 1000 degrees, cracks the gas molecules and the result is more energy from gasoline—approx. 75% released. It's not perfected but on the right track.

3. Over the years there have been many new devices that attach directly to the carburetor system to increase air flow and thus gas mileage. Even if they make a small change on each car, it all adds up. Why not use them?

Check these out: <http://www.freepatentsonline.com/4476843.html>

We need the courage to get new energy saving inventions to the market. We have been warned! Let's do something about it now!

**We welcome
creative contributions to this newsletter.
Send us your articles or ideas, jokes,
wise words, fun activities, letters, trivia.**

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Computer Top Tip

One of the most frustrating things is copying and pasting bordered or boxed text from a site on the internet into a document. You highlight, copy and paste but the paste ends up being a jumble of lines, misalignments, ill-placed text and/or cutoff text in different fonts and sizes. Pictures and buttons may also be mixed in.

Here is a simple solution. Copy whatever you want and just include everything i.e. pictures, etc. It doesn't matter any more.

Open MS Notepad and paste it in here first. Notepad will paste only the bare text. Then edit it, copy the clean text and paste it anywhere you want. No problem.

Space: The Final Dumping Ground

(from an article by Lynda Hurst, Toronto Star)

Despite all of the attention garbage gets on Earth, little attention is given to the garbage in space.

Before 1957—Sputnik—the first few hundred kilometers of space around the Earth were empty and pristine. Today, there are about 4,800 dead satellites, pieces of rocket stages, chunks of frozen fuel, electronic components, nuts and bolts, and even human waste orbiting our planet. NASA tracks at

least 17,000 large objects, 200,000 smaller pieces and millions of miniscule fragments. Don't forget to add in the meteorites and meteoroids—dust-size particles that come into the Earth's gravity grip.

The oldest piece of US debris is the 1958 Vanguard I satellite. For about a month, an astronaut's glove orbited Earth. It was lost in 1965 during the first space walk. There are also about 200 plastic bags full of garbage dropped by Russian cosmonauts from the MIR space station.

When the space shut-

tle Columbia blew up in 2003, one of the first questions was whether it had hit some space junk.

Objects are catalogued. Positions determine launches, maneuvering in space, trajectory. The higher the orbit, the longer stuff stays.

Many countries have launched into space and left junk—US, France, Russia, Japan. Many of their contributions are still intact but some exploded leaving countless high-speed pieces of metallic pieces orbiting Earth. Russia alone has 26 deserted satellites.

Ways to clean it up? Not many! Possible solutions: high-powered lasers to vaporize them. Send them to higher "graveyard" orbits, sweep them out of orbit to burn up in the atmosphere—very dangerous.

If there is no clean up, then anything going out there must be protected with special impact shields and coatings. The Int'l Space Station is very heavily shielded.

Our bad habits and wastefulness are now polluting outer space!!

Kessler Syndrome: collisions will be unavoidable

<http://www.123exp-astronomy.com/t/01561238533/>

NASA Orbital Debris Program Office

(See views, maps, simulations)

<http://orbitaldebris.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Tidbits of Trivia

- about 15% of Father's Day cards are bought by wives for their husbands.
- the longest distance run on a treadmill in 24 hrs. is 247.68 km or 153.9 miles.
- worms head for ground level in rainy weather in order to breathe, just like us when we head for air when swimming.
- The total cost of ex-

- penses related to a dog is about equal to the cost of a Starbucks Espresso Frappuccino a day.
- cats prefer foods with powerful aromas, high fat content, a variety of textures and at a temperature of freshly killed prey.
- in 1850, cancer was 1 in 50 people, in 1900 1 in 35, now it's 1 in 3, forecasts are 75% will get cancer by the end of this century.

- most Easter cards are received by grandchildren.
- astronauts are allowed to take iPods into the space shuttle but not into a space station.
- the Michelin Man's name is Bibendum—inspired by an advertising sketch for a bar. "Nunc est Bibendum" meaning "Now is the time to drink." This was 1898.

Interesting Reading

Fake Memoirs (Note: Some may not be suitable for children)

(were considered truthful non-fiction at first but then proven to be embellished)

Love and Consequences by Margaret Seltzer. The author faked and baked up a life as a half-Native American growing up with gangs in Los Angeles.

Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust by Misha Defonseca. Best "smelling" autobiography about surviving the Holocaust.

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey. Fictional accounts of his various addictions. Oprah Winfrey initially raved about this selected book. She was miffed big time.

Forbidden Love by Norma Kouri. Fabricated story about a fatal love affair between



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Do We Deserve to Be on this Earth?

(by O.S.)

A recent TV program tried to show what the Earth would be like if mankind totally disappeared. It simulated possible events and natural processes that would happen over 25,000 years. Naturally, the forces of nature eventually cleaned up the mess that we made. Musing brought up the question: Do we deserve to exist on this earth?

Yes

- we are here and overcome many obstacles to survival and have put in place great systems that help people stay alive together. We do seem to want to help each other survive on this planet. e.g. hospitals, political groups, volunteers, religious groups, etc.

- we can live with nature. We just need more caring, practice and effort. We are not good at it.

- perhaps the whole environment thing is being over-exaggerated and blown out of proportion? We notice things more in congested areas such as cities and other microcosms and are perhaps not looking at the bigger picture which suggests natural processes are in effect and we really aren't the cause of the problems. Life is a struggle and we are succeeding at it.

No

- we do not live in harmony with nature. We destroy it and use it for personal gain and greed.

- besides our own environments, we have polluted outer space, Mars and the moon with junk left there after space missions.

- we reproduce without any controls and take what we need to survive from the environment and animals. We do not kill for only that which we need.

- money, fame and ownership seem to drive us instead of regard for the really important things in life such as relationships and sharing. Maybe we need to be asking "Why are we here?" more often.

Just Desserts (about deserving)

<http://marylaine.com/myword/deserve.html>

Taking Water for Granted (by O.S.)

Water is the most precious thing on the face of the Earth. Without it, everything dies. I had to replace a hot water heater and the water was shut off for many hours. It was quite revealing how much I took water for granted.

During the hours that it was unavailable, I became very aware of how important water was in my life. I wasn't able to flush toilets more than once so the yellow had to mellow.

I was unable to wash my hands after doing yard work. A quick

scrubbing with a damp towel (from water left in pipes) sufficed. I couldn't boil some eggs. The dishes just sat in the sink. I couldn't shower. Clothes washing stopped. A little water was difficult to find to help swallow some pills. A spill had to be cleaned up with a dry towel. There was a sudden awareness of juice in the fridge. I realized that I should have planned ahead to save several jugs or pots full of water.

What is your level of awareness of and respect for water?

- average water use per person/day in Canada: 270 Litres, in Ecuador: 8 Litres, in Britain: 150 Litres.

- Canadian summer use: up to 500 Litres per day

(The writer is an immigrant Egyptian-Canadian journalist who has written for Arab newspapers. We often share opinions from different points of view. I invited him to share his perspectives and wisdom with readers. —O.S.)

The other view by Ahmed Sheta, Toronto, Canada

Is the third world subsidizing our high standard of living?

Three seemingly different items in the news attracted my attention recently. I think they are related.

On a CBC talk show, the "problem" of foreign "nannies" was mentioned. The demand for nannies - more properly called care-givers - for older people has surpassed that for children. They also questioned if the nannies cultural qualifications are suitable for senior citizens. We, of course, would like to have the best for our senior citizens, and since we pay for the service, we should have the right to pick and choose. But why are we "importing" people from third world countries to baby-sit our children and take care of our loved seniors? It seems that for whatever reasons we can't or don't want to do the job ourselves. Our population is aging and we would rather pay a poor foreigner for the service than do it ourselves.

The second item was about our food. Most of the "Produced in Canada" bee honey was imported from China until it was revealed that it contains an antibiotic unsuitable for human consumption. So now, honey is imported from Argentina. The same thing applies to other "Made in Canada" labeled goods. They are neither produced nor made in Canada. The reason for this mislabeling is because if 51% or more of the production cost (not of the material) is in Canada, it's considered a Canadian product. Labels become somewhat misleading. China has since been, justifiably or not, the subject of a huge defamation campaign.

The third item was an announcement of losses by an American auto maker of tens of billions of dollars. To solve the problem, they offered tens of thousands of workers a good compensation package to leave the company "voluntarily". The justification was that hourly pay including benefits amounts to \$45.00. The company hopes to replace workers at \$25/hr. The savings amount to billions of dollars and the company can lower costs to better compete in the global market. Nothing is wrong with this, however, equally or more expensive Japanese and European cars are selling very well in North America and at about the same prices. The problem seems to lie in the perceived better quality of imported cars. Thus the proposed solution does not address or solve the real problem.

Why do we import "nannies", cars, foods and other products? Why do we export jobs? The answer of course is because it is cheaper to import and to manufacture abroad. But what is the impact on the wages and labour market here? Will the trend of exporting jobs and importing workers lead to some sort of gradual equalization? Can North American workers compete with third world wages and productivity and needs?

Pay a visit to a Dollar Store and you will see that all these \$1-2 products are manufactured in a third world country and not in North America. You can buy imported bananas for 29- 49¢/pound whereas the cheapest locally grown tomato is sold for a minimum of 99¢. Does this mean that we are not paying a fair price for the products we consume, or does it mean that the poor citizens of third world countries are subsidizing our high standard of living?

We are living in an age of globalization. This dictates more free trade, less barriers, wider exchange with other countries. It also calls for new rules of exchange and fairness in distribution of wealth among nations as well as individuals. It will bring extensive changes in international relations.

Are we fully aware of the consequences and ready to live with them?

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Jokes of the Month

Stevie Wonder and Tiger Woods are in a bar. Woods turns to Wonder and says: How is the singing career going?" Stevie Wonder replies: "Not too bad! How's the golf?" Woods replies: "Not too bad, I've had some problems with my swing, but I think I've got that right now." Stevie Wonder says: "I always find that when my swing goes wrong, I need to stop playing for a while and not think about it. Then, the next time I play, it seems to be all right. Tiger Woods says: "You play golf?" Stevie Wonder says: "Oh, yes, I've been playing for years." And Woods says: "But, you're blind. How can you play golf if you're blind?" Wonder replies: "I get my caddy to stand in the middle of the fairway and call to me. I listen for the sound of his voice and play the ball towards him. Then, when I get to where the ball lands, the caddy moves to the green or farther down the fairway and again I play the ball towards his voice." "But, how do you putt?", asks Woods. "Well," says Stevie, "I get my caddy to lean down in front of the hole and call to me with his head on the ground and I just play the ball towards his voice." Woods asks: "What's your handicap?" Stevie says, "Well, I'm a scratch golfer." Woods, incredulous, says to Stevie: "We've got to play a round sometime." Wonder replies: "Well, people don't take me seriously, so I only play for money, and never play for less than \$10,000 a hole." Woods thinks about it and says, "OK, I'm game for that, when would you like to play?" Stevie says, "Pick a night!"

What Will They Invent Next?

Sonic Teenager Deterrent

Disruptive, loitering youths can be quickly dispersed with a high-pitched noise that 90% of those under 20 can hear but 90% of those over 30 can't. It has been very successful in preventing gangs from gathering in certain areas. Adults are virtually immune to the sound because hearing deteriorates after age 20. The sound does not penetrate indoors. The volume can be easily adjusted to meet the need.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.html?xml=/news/2006/02/16/noise16.xml&sSheet=/news/2006/02/16/ixhome.html>

Buy one at: http://www.compoundsecurity.co.uk/mosquito_order.html

Wise Words of Wisdom

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." - "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." - "Two things inspire me to awe -- the starry heavens above and the moral universe within." - "Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value."

All of the above are from Albert Einstein

"You can't depend on your judgment when your imagination is out of focus." - Mark Twain

"Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning." - Gloria Steinem

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