

# Parenting Multiple GT Students in the Same Home

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## Why am I doing this Seminar?

- Parenting 1 GT child can require extra time and effort. Parenting multiple GT children can feel overwhelming as each child has unique needs and personalities.
- Need for a seminar so that other parents with multiple GT kids can come together and feel normal, as we investigate different ways to engage all our kids.

## Note:

- We can apply the following tips to all children, not just GT kids.
- I found this website very helpful- National association for gifted children (NAGC)  
<https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents>

## Two main points tackling the task of parenting multiple GT children in one home.

1. Be mindful to engage the whole child, not just their academics.

From the article : <https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Publication%20PHP/NAGC-TIP%20Sheet-Whole%20Gifted%20Child.pdf>

“Parents and educators must address all needs: cognitive, social, emotional, physical, psychological, and more.”

- By focusing strictly on academic achievement, we divert attention away from the encompassing learning needs of the whole child.
- Empowering the whole gifted child requires that we look beyond test scores and consider gifted traits, characteristics, and behaviors.
- When gifted children feel understood, accepted, and appreciated for who they are—not solely for what they can do at the time—children are more likely to take academic risks, accept academic challenges, and feel confident with their efforts.
- By considering all dimensions of the whole gifted child, gifted students are enfranchised and empowered.
- Building self-esteem and resilience within our students opens endless opportunities.

## 2. Meet each child where they are in their unique personality, passions, strengths, and weaknesses.

People in general are motivated when

- interested in that thing
- we have the ability to do it
- we see a purpose in what we are doing.

*We can find our sweet spot with each child when we think of them as a whole, and when we aim to engage them in what they are interested in, have the ability to do and what they see has a purpose.*

*Take time to think through each child. What are their strengths? Passions? Weaknesses? What interests them? What do they find purpose in?*

*Here are some of the things we have discovered in our home to meet the different needs.*

In my family, we have 4 identified GT children, who are all very different from each other.

- Our 14 year old daughter is very strong in ELA, writing and poetry
- Our 12 year old daughter loves anything involving strategy, especially games.
- Our 9 year old son is very strong in math. Sometime I think he sees the world in numbers.
- Our 7 year old son is very strong in Science- our little engineer

**Tip 1: As I go along in life, I learned to put my radar up to discovering what lights them up and what they are motivated to do. I also look for “tools” to help engage them in those things.**

Examples:

- a. “The Way Things Work” by David Macaulay
  - i. Excellent book explaining how things work- from simple machines to technical items like computers and 3d printers. Fun graphics that engage little minds too.
  - ii. The also have a video series that is available at the Fort Bend Library.
- b. Stop action / Animation App
  - i. Creating movies via stop action animation is a great way to get story out and make creativity flow!

- c. Tubelox – PVC Pipes and Connectors (<https://tubelox.com/>)
  - i. Create life size designs! Great for little engineers :)
  - ii. We tried to save money by buying pvc and connectors, but in the end ran into many problems and it still cost a lot. I wish we would have spent the extra money and just went with Tubelox. So that's my recommendation.

## Tip 2: Add little extras to things that they are already doing to engage their mind and creativity more.

- d. Bare Books
  - i. These blank books are designed for you to create your own book.
  - ii. My 9 year old was really into a story he was writing for ELA, so I gave him a Bare Book to make it more official, and it made him even more excited.
- e. Building Tools
  - i. Things we have given him include rope and pulleys, dollies (wood platform with wheels), magnets, lights, etc. Harbor Freight is a great place to shop for these things!
  - ii. We give my 7 year old little engineer lots of building tools so that he can engage his mind, and we allow him to create throughout the house. For example, he often creates a rope and pulley system from our second floor to our first floor.
- f. Cooking and Craft Supplies
  - i. Our 12 year old finds life in making things (baked goods, sewing projects or crafts) for her friends. It's a way for her to create and engage her mind. So when I find something along this, I will get it for her to add to her tools. Recently, we bought a candy mold for her to make chocolate pops.

## Tip 3: Connect your child with family, friends or neighbors that do something they are interested in. We don't have to do the sole task of engaging our children. We can connect them with experts that can help be role models and examples.

- g. My 9 year old was super into drones, and was studying them for his GT project. My husband found a local company that designs drones and set up an opportunity for my son to interview them, The people at this company were very engages with him as he asked questions and they showed him a lot of what they do.
- h. This same child is also into inventing and inventions. We discovered a Christian ministry that invents a lot of things, like flying cars and travel dental equipment. We shared this with our son and he is always wanting updates from this ministry. (ITEC USA)
- i. My 7 year old loves anything engineering. Since my Dad is an electrical and integration engineer, he is always interacting with my son on these topics. From building fun gadgets with him (like an electromagnet) to explain his real like work, this exposes my son to realities of being an engineer.
- j. My husband's best friend from high school is a Writing Professor at a small college in Michigan. When traveling one summer, we took our writing lover daughter to a writing camp we was leading, exposing her to a person who does writing for a living.

- k. Tweens Read!!! (<http://tweensread.com/index.html>)
  - i. This annual event in October is in Houston and is FREE!
  - ii. 25-30 authors come and read from their recent book and engage in a Q&A from the middle school audience
  - iii. Geared towards grades 5-8 (I started taking my girls when they were in 4<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Tip 4: Games! Find games that you can play with your child that is geared towards their unique character.**

- l. Bananagrams
  - i. This speed Scrabble game is great for word loving kids! My 14 year old loves it!
  - ii. They have many versions, including one for younger kids.
- m. Head Full of Numbers
  - i. Great for math lovers. Enhances addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division practice
  - ii. 6 dice are rolled and then you record the number of unique, correct equations using those numbers.
- n. Mariposas – A Monarch Butterfly game
  - i. Follows the Monarch life cycle
  - ii. Is a strategy game.
  - iii. Suggested age 14 and up (but I play with my 9 and 12 YO GT children)
- o. list from NAGC-  
[https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Publication%20PHP/PHP\\_2015\\_ToyList.pdf](https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Publication%20PHP/PHP_2015_ToyList.pdf)