

To Do List for Parents of Gifted Children

1. **READ**... to your child and with your child. Reading is the single best way to spend time with your child.
2. **PLAY**... board or card games. Put away your phone or iPad for one night... build, create, problem-solve together. Your gifted child needs to learn how to **win and lose** in a safe environment. Include physical play, also. Some gifted kids don't like to be physically active. They fear failure if they are not athletic. Get your child off the couch, nose out of the book, eyes off the screen, and into the backyard for tag football, badminton, corn hole, or soccer. No teams needed.
3. **TALK**... discuss the book he/she is reading, the television show or movie you watch together, the current events on the news. Gifted kids love to talk! Discussion builds vocabulary, perspective, and empathy with others.
4. **WORK**... make 'chores' a part of your child's education. Learning responsibility by taking care of his/her belongings and those of others will bring huge pay offs when he/she is a teenager.
5. **ORGANIZE**... many gifted kids are disorganized and need to learn strategies so they can be successful in school as the responsibilities of learning become more autonomous. Begin with simple tasks, such as organizing toys, closet, study area. While digital devices are easy and ubiquitous, try a low-tech option: Use a large calendar to keep track of assignments and activities. Magnetic white boards are excellent, also. Color-coding school assignments, sports activities, special interests, and household responsibilities is a great strategy.
6. **CREATE**... creativity is one of the hallmarks of gifted learners. Natural curiosity and passion go hand-in-hand. Find special opportunities for creativity. Family outings to creative venues like museums and theatre/musical performances as well as visits to historical locations spark creativity in children. And how about COOKING?! Talk about an all-around excellent home activity to teach multiple skills! Cooking involves problem-solving, following directions, decision making, reading, math, creativity, evaluation and improvement, cultural understanding... and just plain fun!