

PARENTING AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT.

Talent is an inborn ability, Strength or Skill which is unique and personalized.

Each person's talents are enduring and unique.

Each person's greatest room for growth is in the areas of his or her greatest strength."

Talents are your child's naturally recurring patterns of thought, feeling, or behaviour.

To develop one's natural talents (once you've identified them) into strengths requires knowledge and skills.

- Knowledge consists of the facts and lessons learned.
- Skills are the steps of an activity.

"The real tragedy of life is not that each of us doesn't have enough strengths, it's that we fail to use the ones we have." Benjamin Franklin called wasted strengths "sundials in the shade."

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Look inside your child and try to identify the strongest threads [natural talents], reinforce them with practice and learning, and then either find or, as he [Warren Buffett] did, carve out a role that draws on these strengths every day. When you do, your child will be more productive, more fulfilled, and more successful."

Erica Jong wrote, "Everyone has talent. What's rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads."

All children have special talents that need to be noticed and nurtured so they will do well in school and in their later lives.

Parents can be very important in helping their children develop their talents by working with them at home. Parents can also make schools aware of their children's talents, and work with them to make sure that their children are in a program that challenges them intellectually and responds to their educational and emotional needs.

Children's talents should be developed as early as possible so they can achieve their full potential. Parents don't need to be very educated themselves--or have a great deal of money, or even time--to help their children learn and improve their ability to think and communicate. Here are some things parents can do at home:

- Set high academic goals for their children. Tell them that success is possible, that they will benefit later in life from doing well in school, and that their families and teachers expect them to do well.
- Talk to and play with their children. Have conversations about current events, what's happening in the neighborhood, and what you all did during the day. As you go through your daily routine, explain what you are doing and why. Encourage your children to ask questions that you cannot answer or help them answer. Make up stories together. Read to them, play games, and do puzzles together.
- Ask your children to pay attention to the way people speak on the radio and TV. Talk about why learning to use good English speech patterns will help them in school and later in life.
- Pay attention to what your children like to do, such as a hobby, drawing, or working with numbers. Help them develop those skills or find out where in the community they can participate in learning enrichment activities. Start early; Head Start and other preschool programs can give your children many advantages.

- Take your children to places where they can learn. Find out about story times at the library and bookstores, and about children's events at museums and community centers. Check out free books and games at the library.
- Take a parenting course in the community or at school that teaches how to develop children's talents.
- Find a mentor in your family or community who can help your children develop their talents and serve as a role model for academic achievement.
- Find out about early talent identification programs so that when your children begin preschool or school they will receive an education that challenges them. Also find out about local community or religious preschools and after-school enrichment programs.
- Set up a quiet study space for your children and help them with their homework, or find them an after-school program that provides a place for studying without distractions.



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