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From: <parentspecialist@naac.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2003 5:37 PM
Attach: Websites for parents-1pg.
Subject: RE: info

What a wonderful question! As you may have read, our service is not to provide answers for parents, but to offer a selection of resources so that they can make well-informed choices. NAGC does not make recommendations for particular products or services to the exclusion of others; however, some general resources have been selected for you to help the process of parent involvement.

1. "Stand Up for Your Gifted Child: How to make the most of kids' strengths at school and at home" by Joan F. Smutney (2001, Free Spirit Press) is a very readable book that helps parents recognize and assess their child's gifts, explore various options (pull-out programs, acceleration, grade skipping, clustering, etc.), communicate positively and effectively with the school, and provide enrichment at home. It contains practical advice and provides additional avenues for information. You can read more at:
http://www.freespirit.com/cgi/s_product_nf.cgi?productid=293

2. "Helping Gifted Children Soar: A Guide for Parents and Teachers" by C. A. Strip and G. Hirsch (Gifted Psychology Press, 2000, ISBN: 0910707413) is also very helpful. This book provides solid information and concrete suggestions on how to meet children's educational needs. The authors discuss how to explore a variety of learning options (e.g., acceleration, curriculum compacting, and pull-out programs); the characteristics of good gifted programs; and effective parent/teacher communication.

3. For ongoing information, NAGC has a special parent associate membership available only for parents and grandparents that includes a subscription to Parenting for High Potential, a quarterly magazine with articles and activities geared to the development of talent. I encourage you to quickly look through the list of articles from previous issues that are available online at:
<http://www.nagc.org/Publications/Parenting/index.html>.

4. Many state gifted associations have excellent handbooks, newsletters, and magazines available for parents who are just entering the world of gifted education. You might want to request copies from Ohio (<http://www.oagc.com/>) and California (<http://www.cagifted.org/>) as examples to consider. Also, parents can find resources through the Louisiana Center for Gifted Education at Lafayette (USL Box 4-3251, Lafayette, LA 70504-3251). Their website has links to several related sites at: <http://www.coe.louisiana.edu/centerslabs/gifted.html>.

5. There are a number of websites with a wealth of useful ideas for parents. Attached to this email is a list produced at the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Connecticut. Included on the list is the ERIC site with access to all state gifted associations.

6. It is always helpful for parents to develop and encourage strong communication lines with their child, but often parents appear to have difficulty initiating and sustaining meaningful conversations. To help, your G/T coordinators might suggest bibliotherapy and videotherapy as "tools." Not just a "therapy," bibliotherapy has been found to have positive effects on a child's problem-solving ability, pro-social behavior, and interpersonal relations. This article from the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, "A parent's guide to helping children: Using bibliotherapy at home" by Mary Rizza, offers good background, information about book selection, and practical suggestions: <http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~nrcgt/news/winter97/wintr972.html>

There are other resources for parents that depend on the target age and areas of need. It might be helpful to do a survey of your parents and then focus on the particular identified issues. Several school districts have created effective tri-fold informational brochures listing resources for certain areas such as social and emotional needs, testing and assessment, working with dual exceptionalities, and developing interests.

Good luck in your quest!

Sincerely,

Parent Specialist