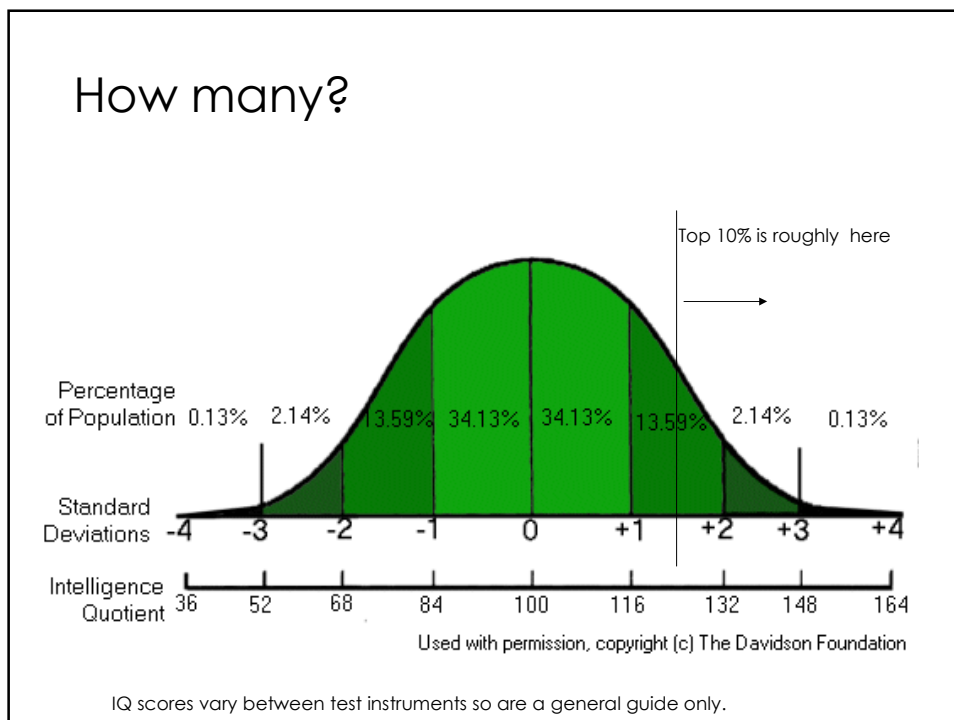
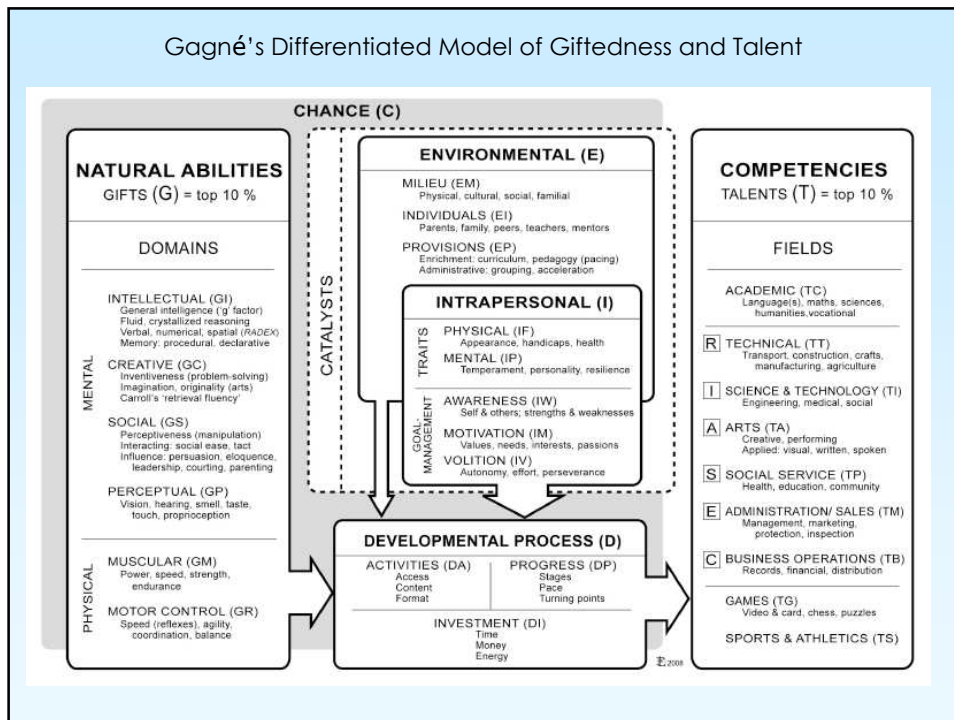




What do they
look like?





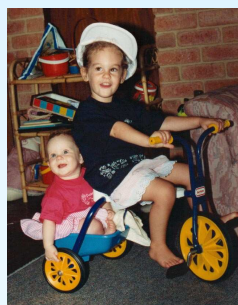
If they are gifted, how will you know?

Characteristics

Milestones

Sleep

Sensitivities



Characteristics

Alertness

Rapid development of skills

Intensity of purpose, curiosity

Advanced play behaviour

Exceptional memory

Probing (endless) questions



Sense of humour
Rapid pace of learning
Classifying and investigation skills
Creativity
Imagination
Exceptional mathematical ability
Excellent memory for details



Immersion learners
Strong sense of justice and advanced
moral judgment
Single minded, often not accepting of
the status quo
High energy levels and a decreased
level of sleep
Independent streak

Language development

Early speech

Use of complex sentences and
wide vocab

Interest in the sound of
language

Rhymes and stories



Other things to think about...

Sensitivities

Introversion / Extroversion

Birth order

IQ doesn't increase with the longer you
have been at school

Giftedness isn't only high performance

Intensity and Sensitivity

Part of the package - not something that can willingly change

Sensory-motor (physical)

Emotional

Imaginational

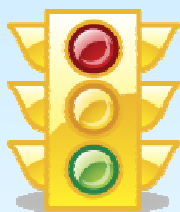
Sensual

Intellectual



It is not wilfulness, obstinance or fussiness.
Giftedness is never an excuse for bad behaviour

How do you find them?



Stop

Look

Listen

Interpret with care



Stop
Look
Listen



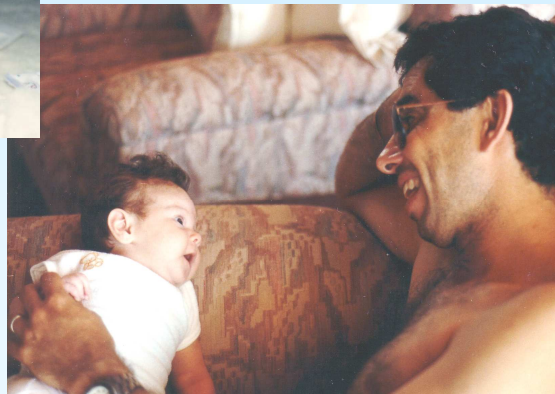
Be alert to behaviours and interactions



4 weeks

Signs of giftedness may
be evident from birth

Alertness
Rapid development of skills
Intensity of purpose, curiosity

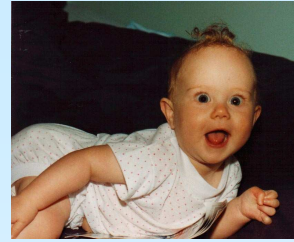


9 weeks



Stop
Look

Listen



To the child's

- Language
- Questioning

Parents can add an important
perspectives for teachers – they know
the child you don't see



90% of parents realised by the child's
second birthday that their child may
possess high levels of ability.

Parents attributed this identification to their
child's level of questioning, intense curiosity,
desire to learn, and unusually advanced
sense of humour displayed by the child, as
well as the precocity of speech and
movement, and in some cases, the
spontaneous emergence of reading

(Gross, 1993).

However, she also found results to suggest that parents who identified to the school that their child may have high ability were often disbelieved by staff.

Many parents felt they themselves may be perceived as a 'pushy' parent, and chose not to tell the school in order to avoid any potential negative effects on their child.

Myths



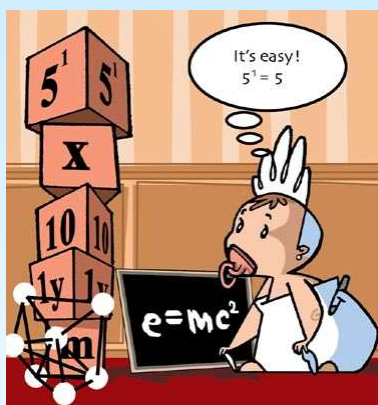
From Merrick, C., Target, R. 2004 *Gifted and Talented Education: Professional Development Package for Teachers Module 2*
GERRIC, UNSW, Sydney

Myths

- Every mother thinks her child is gifted (gifted children are the product of pushy middle class mothers and ambitious fathers)
- 'The cream rises to the top' – gifted kids don't need special services
- 'Early ripen, early rot'
- Special programs for gifted children are elitist and will make them conceited and arrogant
- You need a budget to cater for gifted children at school
- Acceleration doesn't work / is harmful
- **Gifted children are easy to identify**

What to avoid...

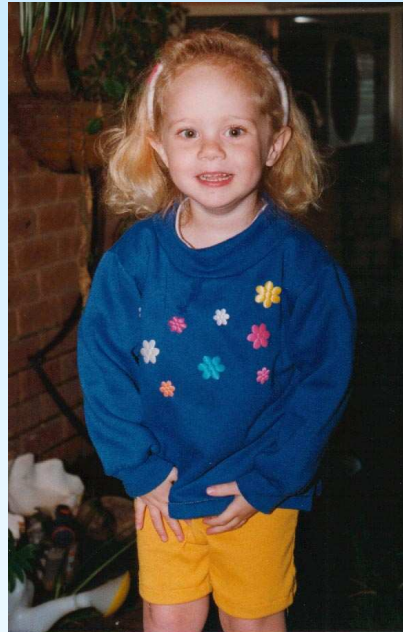
Stereotypes of gifted children.



What comes to mind first on hearing gifted?



What to avoid...



Avoid...

Bias based on gender

One study found parents recognised 64.3% of boys and only 35.7% of girls as possessing special gifts or talents.

Teachers also tend to notice the boys more often than the girls

Parents cited the behavioural problems and demanding nature of boys as the reasons to suspect high ability

“Garden variety” gifted or highly gifted?

- 90% of gifted children will be mildly or moderately gifted (‘garden variety’ gifted)



The ones who are highly, exceptionally or profoundly gifted may be the hardest to spot in school

Regardless of what the packaging looks like,
they are gifted all the time.....



For gifted children the playground might feel like this....



<http://www.geog.umn.edu/faculty/squires/courses/8211/consbio/cartoon.jpg>

Calvin and Hobbes



Please feel free to contact me

derrin@thinkingahead.com.au

www.thinkingahead.com.au