

*Gifted Children: Resources  
for Parents and Teachers in  
WA*



Copies now available

[Click here](#) for details and to order.

The new edition of this book is 150 pages in handy A5 size and is packed full of information. It includes current information on programs and competitions plus a vast new collection of websites, useful readings and links to other services and resources. Entries are coded to make it easy to find what you are looking for.

**[Philosophy Club](#)**

Simon Kidd's popular Philosophy Club will return on Wednesdays in June at Moerlina School in Mt Claremont. Cost is \$15 pp. Check the website for more details and contact Simon to register.

**[Tutor Bank](#)**

The details of those people who have contacted me have



May 2011


Hi {FIRST\_NAME|Valued Customer},

Term 2 is under way, NAPLAN come and gone, those sitting scholarship tests are about to do so and finally it is raining!

The changes at Thinking Ahead which I mentioned in the last newsletter are happening, I have moved out of my office, Tracy is taking on the consultations and planning for the next holiday program which will be organised by [Quest Lifelearning](#) is under way.

The website is being tested and should be live in a few days (all being well). It includes lots of new information, some documents you can download free of charge, including an outline of the Thinking Ahead journey over the last 10 years.

**[Facebook page](#)**

Thinking Ahead now also has a [Facebook page](#). Various bits of information and sites of interest will be posted up there in between newsletters so please come by and say hello. 

**[What's New in the Download section?](#)**

**Grouping the Gifted: Myths and Realities** by Karen Rogers in [Download](#) centre. An important article for parents as well as teachers, it draws on research and the needs of the gifted rather than common perception (myth in many cases) with regard to ability grouping.

A few other articles have been added which you will be able to see on the new website

**[Blog](#)**

The blog has been a bit quiet lately while I have been putting what energy I have into the new website. I have a few things lined up however so there should be more regular offerings again soon.

If you haven't see it, you might like to read the recent post about **Different work not More of the Same**, or **The Purpose of Education is to Make Friends Your Own Age, Isn't it?**

now been added to the  
website.

### [Holiday Programs](#)

The next holiday workshop  
program will be held in **July**  
and will be organised by [Quest](#)  
[Lifelearning](#). More details soon

## **Conferences and Seminars**

### [Howard Gardner](#)

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 in Perth The  
Disciplined Mind: Educational  
Visions for the Future  
To book contact [ACER](#)

### [Excellence in Education](#)

#### [2011: Giftedness,](#)

#### [Creativity, Development](#)

6 - July 2011 in Istanbul,  
Turkey  
organised by  
the International Centre for  
Innovation in Education

### [World Gifted Conference](#)

Prague, August 8 - 12, 2011

The 2nd conference of the

#### [International Research](#)

#### [Association for Talent](#)

#### [Development and](#)

#### [Excellence](#)

26-30 November in Saudi  
Arabia

WA Early Childhood Education  
and Care Conference 2011

#### [Windows of Opportunity'](#)

18-19 June 2011, Perth

### [Digest of Gifted Research](#)

You can also [subscribe now to the blog](#) and receive an email when I  
post something new.

### [Academic Acceleration in International Settings](#)

The Belin Blank Centre at the University of Iowa is conducting a  
research study about academic acceleration attitudes, practices, and  
policies in international settings (that is, in school settings outside the  
United States). The purpose of the study is to survey parents,  
educators, and education professionals. The survey can be completed  
online, takes 10 -15 mins and you can skip any questions you prefer  
not to answer. Please consider this opportunity to share your  
experiences (your child does not need to have been accelerated to  
participate, your experience advocating for them will be sufficient to  
answer the questions)

### **Coming Up...**

By the time I write the next newsletter I will have been to the Future  
Problem Solving International Competition in La Crosse Wisconsin  
where my daughter will be competing and I will be able to share some  
insights from those few days. Future Problem solving is a wonderful  
program for gifted kids providing them with skills and a process they  
can use throughout their life, not just in the competition setting. And the  
opportunity to be part of a group of more than 1000 gifted kids  
attending the International Competition is also very powerful. Good  
luck to the couple of teams from WA who are also going to this  
competition. I will look forward to being able to cheer you on as well.

I hope the term goes smoothly for you all. Be sure to keep an eye out  
for the new look website and tell your friends about our Facebook  
page.

cheers

*Derrin Cramer*

### ***Links to information you might find useful***

#### **Articles, blogs, webinars**

[4 things parents should never say to gifted  
children](#) from James Delisle at the Utah  
Association for Gifted Conference in Jan  
2011

[Gifted Children: The Myth](#) Helen Dowland

[The burden of raising a gifted child](#)



### **Just for fun: a puzzle**

There are three boxes, 2 frogs in each box. One box has two frogs that always tell the truth.

Another has two frogs that always tell a lie. The last box has one of each type of frog.

You don't know which box is which, but you know which frog is which as soon as it's out of the box (presumably you asked it a question to which you already knew the correct answer).

You pull out a truth-telling frog out of one of a box. What's the chance that the next frog from the same box also tells the truth?

[Explore the Thinking Ahead website](#)

Find us on Facebook



### [The burden of raising a gifted child](#)

[What does IQ really measure?](#) An article about the role motivation plays in success at school and in later life.

[The power of smiling](#) - the relationship between smiling and health and happiness. Listen out for the brain stimulation comparisons for smiling and good quality chocolate. (7 mins 28)

[Gradeless school](#) - children grouped by ability not age (includes some interesting comments about standardised testing)

[The yo-yo champion](#) some thoughts and comments about whether or not schools cultivate passion

[Motivation Breakthrough](#) (You Tube) (annoyingly broken into 9 parts but worth listening to, look for links to part 2 onwards on the right) This talk focusses on motivation as the key to learning and the fact that ALL human behaviour is motivated. Rick Lavoie gives parents and teachers, few of whom have an effective arsenal of techniques to hand, the key to unlock any child's enthusiasm and responsiveness. Various parts look at myths and misconceptions about motivation, performance inconsistency, rewards and punishment and why they don't get the intended results, use of competition and other topics.

SENG Webinar: [Change your Story. Change your Life](#) presented by Stephanie Tolan. For generations parents have been doing their best to change the world (particularly the educational world) to suit the special needs of their gifted and highly gifted children. Though some changes have come through these efforts, they haven't lasted, and parents today face the same old inequities and frustrations. This presentation takes a very different approach, providing families with Story Principle--a way to empower themselves and their children, regardless of the educational climate they face. When children and parents see themselves as the heroes of their own story they can begin immediately to change that story for the better.

### **Books**

[Smart Teens Guide to Living with Intensity](#): How to get more out of life and learning by Lisa Rivero

[Flourish](#) by Martin Seligman In a fascinating evolution of thought, Flourish, refines what Positive Psychology is all about and offers inspiring stories of Positive Psychology in action- innovative schools that add resilience to their curricula, with a case study of Geelong Grammar in particular: a new theory of success and intelligence; and evidence on how positive physical health can turn medicine on its head. Building on his game-changing work on optimism, motivation, and character, Dr Seligman shows us how to flourish and bring well being into our own lives.

### ***Handwriting and typing***

[Basic skills for handwriting](#) - OT recommendations with links to information on each of the basic skills required (visual motor control, visual perception, fine motor skills, trunk control, shoulder stability)

[Learn 2 type for kids](#) This site provides fun introductory exercises to help young children become familiar with the concept of typing. Animated exercises allow them to visualise the simple sentences and encourages them to type the letters shown.

### ***Digital media***

[Game Salad](#) - free game creation software Make games for iPhone, iPad, Mac and Web. No coding required. Logic based, drag and drop functionality.

[Hippocampus](#) - Teaching with the power of digital media selection of courses including a range of maths and sciences, statistics and psychology (and US history)

Maths and Science focussed **apps** for the iPad

Look out for *Mimir Math*, *Math Minute*, *Math Seeq*, *BrainzHD*, *Tessellate*, *Math Racer*, *infoCircle*, *NASA*, *Globe*, *Periodic Table*, *EquationFree*, *BrainPop* (suggestions come from the Bright Kids list)

### ***Science***

[Map of the human heart](#) See exactly how your heart pumps blood throughout your body and learn astounding facts about the human heart with this interactive activity.

### ***Language enrichment sites***

[Word Central](#)

[Language Quest](#) (foreign languages)

[Stone Soup](#) The Magazine by Kids

[Word Masters Challenge](#)

[Online vocab games and resources](#), links for grammar spelling and punctuation resources from Online Diner

### ***Nature and the Wider World***

[World Environment Day](#) June 5 Forests: Nature at your service United Nations Environment Program

### ***Social emotional aspects***

[Be confident in who you are](#): Middle School Confidential, a graphic novel, download from the iTunes app store

### ***Logic activities***

Logic/critical thinking problems suitable for the bright child available from [MindWare](#) including books called "Perplexors" which have free sample pages on their website (search for "perplexors," click on the book you want, and then select "sample book pages.") . See also the [Logic Links samples for 5- 7 year olds](#) or the [molecular patterns coloring book](#)

## ***2E- Twice Exceptional***

### **2E newsletter**

Maybe you know a bright child who seems lazy – a child who just never seems to work up to his or her potential. Children who are gifted in intelligence account for three to five percent of all children. Of those, however, as many as one-fifth may have some kind of learning difficulty.

These are “2e kids” – twice-exceptional children. They're exceptional because they're gifted and exceptional because they have learning disabilities, learning disorders, attention difficulties, or just plain learning differences.

[Welcome to the wild wild world of 2E](#) (blog post) from Laughing at Chaos

Happy reading and be sure you have a copy of *Gifted Children: Resources for Parents and Teachers in WA* for many, many more links.

[Go to the Thinking Ahead website](#)

**Thinking Ahead Extension Workshops**  
**PO Box 171, Como WA 6952**  
**Tel: (08) 9474 4594**  
**Email: [derrin@thinkingahead.com.au](mailto:derrin@thinkingahead.com.au)**

**Web: [www.thinkingahead.com.au](http://www.thinkingahead.com.au)**

**Blog: <http://derrin-thebrightside.blogspot.com>**

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AUSTRALIA

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