

# ABC PEEL NEWSLETTER

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: GINA HEISZ**

Books for Gifted Kids.

Tell us about your kids' favourite titles, favourite authors, favourite resource sources, favourite magazines! Help us update our online recommendations. It really can be hard to find appropriate topics and themes for voracious readers. Sometimes other parents have been able to find authors or titles that you may not have thought of on your own.

Please send your book recommendations to me at [gheisz@sympatico.ca](mailto:gheisz@sympatico.ca). Don't forget to include at what age your child was interested in the book. If your child would like to write a review of their current favourite we would be glad to add it to our website too. If you have found a book particularly useful for advice on raising gifted kids, for enriching or expanding their learning, or for helping provide support for you or your gifted child, please share the title. Add a few words on how you found it helpful, and maybe we can add that to our list too.

I look forward to finding some new material for me and my kids, so start compiling and send it to me!

## **PARENTS' NIGHT THIS MONTH:**

This month, our Parent's Night has been cancelled. Our usual room at the Peel board offices was already booked and there was no other place available to hold the meeting.

Next month, we will hold our regular Parent Night on November 29, 2007 in our usual location at the Peel school board offices in the Inglewood room on the 3rd floor at 7:15pm. We hope to have representatives from the 5 regional gifted highschool centers in Peel available to talk to grade 7 and 8 students looking at choices for the 2008-2009 school year.

## **GIFTED REVIEW: UPDATE**

The gifted review team met on September 25th and were advised about a mistake made by Canada Post. It turns out that the surveys for parents of identified children in the ISELP programs were not sent out properly and had incorrect postage assigned. This has been corrected and the surveys were re-sent in October to all schools so that *all* parents of identified gifted children will have a voice in the review. This delay however, means that the final report will not be available until well into the new year. (probably June 2008).

The review team decided that it was more important to assure that all parents complete the surveys and provide a thorough report, than to stick with the original deadline of December 2007.

## **FAMILY GAMES DAY:**

The first family games day of the year will be held on Saturday October 20, 2007 at 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM at the Brampton West Alliance Church, 1 Regan Road, Brampton (near the car dealerships on Van Kirk Drive - North of Bovaird, first street on the left).

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and games. All ages are welcome and are encouraged to take part in a game or two and have some fun too! Bring your favourite board game and a deck of cards. Please bring a snack to share or a twoonie. Invite your friends. Please RSVP [gheisz@sympatico.ca](mailto:gheisz@sympatico.ca)

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## ARE YOU A VISUAL-SPATIAL LEARNER? TAKE THE QUIZ:

1. Do you think mainly in pictures instead of words?
2. Are you good at solving puzzles or mazes?
3. Do you like to build with LEGO, K'Nex or blocks?
4. Do you often lose track of time?
5. Do you know things without being able to tell how or why?
6. Do you remember how to get to places you have visited only once?
7. Can you feel what others are feeling?
8. Do you remember what you see and forget what you hear?
9. Do you solve problems in unusual ways?
10. Do you have a vivid imagination?
11. Are you talented in music, art, drama or dance?
12. Can you visualize objects from different perspectives?
13. Do others think you are un-organized?
14. Do you love playing on the computer?
15. Do you have trouble spelling words correctly?
16. Do you like taking things apart to see how they work?
17. Do you have at least one visual-spatial parent?

If you have answered yes to at least 9 of these questions, you are most likely a visual-spatial learner.

According to research, approximately one third of all children are strongly visual-spatial learners, and only one quarter are auditory-sequential learners. The other 42 percent are equally visual/auditory learners.

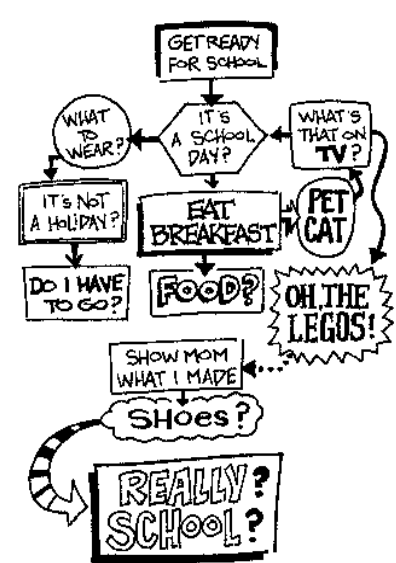
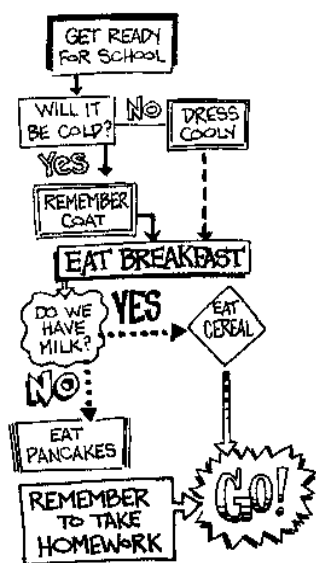
Here are some book titles about visual-spatial learners:

If You Could See The Way I Think: A Handbook for Visual-Spatial Kids by Alexandra Shires Golon

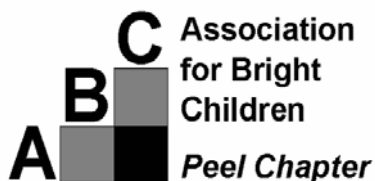
Upside-Down Brilliance: The Visual-Spatial Learner  
By Linda Kreger Silverman



**“But I am ready!”**



Comic by Buck Jones, 2002



# ABC PEEL NEWSLETTER

## IEP's FOR THE GIFTED CHILD:

Around this time of year you are probably in the middle of working on your child's IEP with the school. An IEP, or individual education plan, should be just that: an individualized working document that indicates your child needs something *different* than others in the class.

The document should state what is different about your child's program and how it is modified to suit the needs of your child. Therefore, in order to accomplish this, the IEP must clearly identify where is the student now, where does the student need to go, how will they get there and when, and what needs to be done in order to get there?

The student's strengths should always relate to educational strengths. Merely stating that the child is "bright" is not a strength. However, stating that the child is very bright in math can be a strength.

Another important point to remember is that the child's current level of functioning should be assessed and noted in the IEP, since the child should be placed at a level where there is something *new* to be learned. According to the Ministry of Ontario, this is called the "zone of proximal development/learning".

Each subject that has been modified should be noted in the IEP with a current level of achievement indicating a grade/mark (usually from previous June report card). Please see the [ABC Ontario: Developing IEP's](http://www.abcontario.ca/pdf/Developing%20IEPs%20for%20Gifted%20Students.pdf) document for examples of Special Education Program modifications with ideas on how to fill in the learning expectations, teaching strategies and assessment methods. Here is the link: <http://www.abcontario.ca/pdf/Developing%20IEPs%20for%20Gifted%20Students.pdf> Please see pages 40-44 of the document.

Please note that if you are not happy with your child's IEP, you can always ask for a team meeting with school personnel and have someone from ABC Peel come with you for support and ideas. Contact us at [support@abcpeel.org](mailto:support@abcpeel.org)

## ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS:

By Deborah S. Delisle, Ohio, USA

### Encourage Small Steps

Have a conversation with your child—a talk over an ice cream sundae may lessen the stress each of you feels. Together, you should decide on a few important, attainable goals and chart specific steps to reach them on a timeline. If you have a conference with their teachers, explain these plans to them and ask for their assistance (and patience) as your child works through each step. Depending on how they react to such a process, you may consider a "celebration" when certain goals are met.

### Reinforce Routine

Routine is a partner of organization. If your child can get into the habit of packing their backpack and leaving it in the same place every evening, they should feel more in control of their school materials. The same is true for putting homework in the same place (such as a binder, folder, or textbook).

### Teach Filing Skills

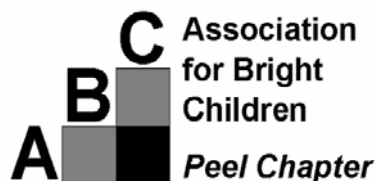
Assist your child in organizing a binder. Although it may seem as if he should know how to set up a file system, they may not. Be sure to take their wishes into account. For instance, they may want a separate tab for each subject or a separate place for all homework. What is most important is for them to recognize the advantages of a file system.

### Keep on Task

Other helpful suggestions include establishing one specific location and time for studying, developing checklists of tasks that need to be completed, conducting a weekly cleanup of backpacks and notebooks, keeping a master calendar, and creating a household schedule. Constant variation only causes more distractions.

### Use New Technology

Many students find an electronic organizer or a handheld computer helpful. Because today's students are growing up in an age of electronics, paper and pencil tasks are often challenging for them. Getting organized electronically might appeal to your child.



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## WHAT IS YOUR LEARNING STYLE?

Did you know there are 7 different types of learning styles? You can be any combination of these styles that include; visual, aural, verbal, physical, logical, social and solitary.

Here is a link to a learning style quiz with 70 questions: <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/inventory/questions.asp> Have your children take the quiz to see their learning style, and maybe it will help you and your child's school develop a good IEP.

## WE NEED IDEAS TO HELP YOU:

The ABC Peel executive need your ideas in order to provide you with a more informative newsletter and quality Parents' Nights. We would like you to tell us what you want to know about in the gifted world, and what topics you would like us to cover for Parents' Night. If you have any ideas as a starting point, please send us a short email at [support@abcpeel.org](mailto:support@abcpeel.org)

We really appreciate your efforts to help us grow as a community!

## ATTENTION ALL KIDS!!!

Do you have a top 5 favourite list of books that you have read? If so, send us your lists and, if you like, a short review about your top book. We will post these top 5 lists in upcoming newsletters. Please send your ideas to [support@abcpeel.org](mailto:support@abcpeel.org) and remember to provide your name and grade.

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

<http://www.studygs.net/>

This is a link to an extensive list of different types of study strategies/guides such as time management, stress and motivational help. It is available in different languages too.

<http://www.ecf.utoronto.ca/apsc/html/SSA/index.html>

This is a link to Saturday science and engineering programs at U of T that begin October 13, and again in Spring 2008 for students in grade 3 through 12.

<http://www.nagc.org/uploadedFiles/PHP/Toylist%202007.pdf>

This is a link to the Parenting for High Potential's top toy list for 2007. It is through the National Association for Gifted Children.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Telephone support:** 905-230-8281 (mailbox '2' has information about upcoming Parents' Nights)

**E-mail support:** [support@abcpeel.org](mailto:support@abcpeel.org)

**Website address:** <http://www.abcpeel.org>

**Membership Information:** [membership@abcpeel.org](mailto:membership@abcpeel.org)

**Parent's Night Information:** [activities@abcpeel.org](mailto:activities@abcpeel.org)

**Children's Programs:** [activities@abcpeel.org](mailto:activities@abcpeel.org)

**Webmaster:** [webadmin@abcpeel.org](mailto:webadmin@abcpeel.org)

**Send Us Your Ideas:** [support@abcpeel.org](mailto:support@abcpeel.org)