

Strategies for supporting Most Able and Talented Students at home

Social and emotional needs

Students need to know that parents are proud of who they are and not what they achieve.
Students need to be allowed to fail and make mistakes, and to develop strategies to cope with not getting it right all the time.

Extend knowledge of the world and encourage discussions

Discuss the news and introduce an interesting fact or topic of the week.
Give children a broad range of experiences, e.g. visiting exhibitions, listening to music, eating different food.

Developing a range of skills

Do not always focus on your child's obvious skills – encourage them to sample new activities. Encourage physical activity to develop coordination and general fitness.
Praise and value effort and persistence, not just achievement.

Balanced perspective

Sometimes the most effective support provided is to limit the number of engagements or activities the student is exposed to, in order to ensure she/he has the space and free time in which to develop hobbies and interests of his/her own.

After school support

It is also important to complement what is done at school, and not simply replicate what goes on in school.

Sporting, creative and musical talents

Communicate with the school effectively about demanding out-of-school interests, so that all options are kept open for most able students and they can make appropriate and realistic choices about their future.