



Davidson Institute for Talent Development  
*Parent Presentation*

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Raising  
a  
Gifted Child

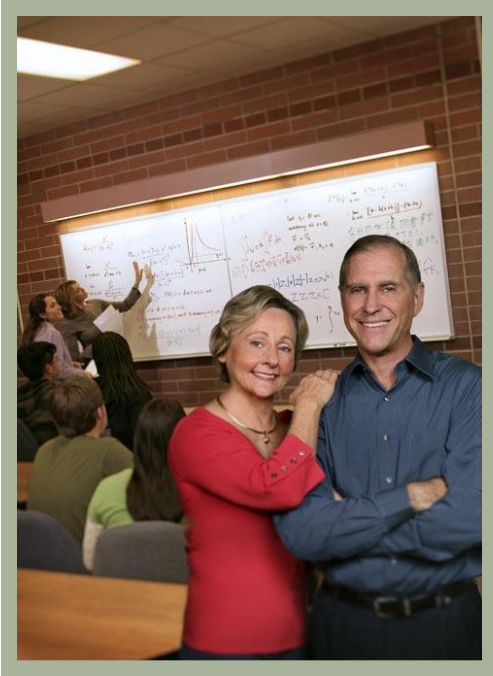
[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org)  
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# Presentation Outline

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- History of the Davidson Institute
- Levels of giftedness
  - Behind the Numbers
- Social/Emotional Characteristics
  - Asynchrony
  - Intensities
  - Perfectionism
  - Peer Relations
  - Underachievement
- Davidson Institute – Overview of Programs
- Resources

# History of Davidson Institute for Talent Development



- In 1999, philanthropists Bob and Jan Davidson founded the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, a national nonprofit.
- The mission of the Davidson Institute for Talent Development is to recognize, nurture and support profoundly intelligent young people and to provide opportunities for them to develop their talents to make a positive difference.

# Identification and Levels of Giftedness

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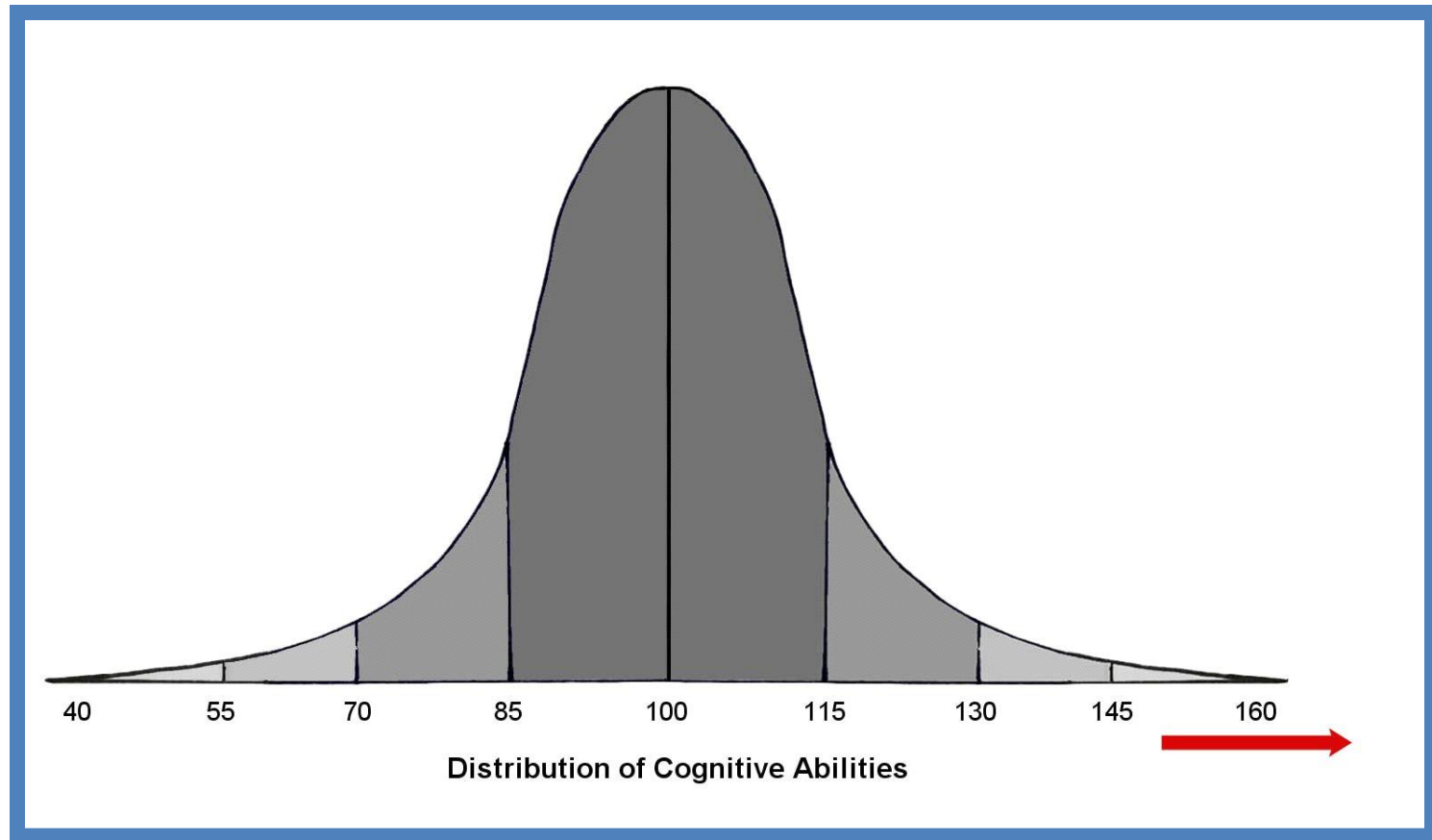
- Bell curve
- IQ numbers

# Generalization of Giftedness

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- Struggling Student
  - IQ of **85 & Below**
- Average Student
  - IQ of **100**
- Moderately Gifted Student
  - IQ of **130**
- Profoundly Gifted
  - IQ of **145 & Above (99.9%)**

# Bell Curve of Cognitive Abilities



# Social and Emotional Characteristics

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- Asynchrony
- Intensities
- Perfectionism
- Peer Relations
- Underachievement

# Asynchrony

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Discrepancy between cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development

**Example:** Researching Greek mythology;  
Fighting over the front seat



# *Asynchrony*

## How it can manifest

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- Life experiences vs. academic understanding
- Ability to reason vs. making a good decision
- Social/emotional maturity can differ depending on the situation

# Intensities

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Innate tendency to respond in an intensified manner to various forms of stimuli both external and internal

**Example:** What is worth doing, is worth doing to excess

# *Intensities*

## How it can manifest

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- Physical
  - Sight, smell, texture
- Emotional
  - Feelings, fears, anxiety, empathy
  - Existential depression
- Passion/Justice/Moral
  - Always want things to be right, argumentative, correcting others, very cognizant of things being fair

# Perfectionism

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The combination of the desire to be perfect, the fear of not being perfect, and the sense that personal acceptance hinges on being perfect

**Example:** Staying up late to redo a writing assignment that the teacher already said looked great

# *Perfectionism*

## How it can manifest

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- **Behaviors:** over-commitment, sensitivity to criticism, compulsive attention to detail, procrastination, writer's block
- **Thoughts:** "I'm never good enough", "I'm only acceptable if I'm perfect", "If I make a mistake, there's something wrong with me"
- **Feelings:** anger, anxiety, shame, overwhelmed, impatience, frustration

# Peer Relations

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In a typical setting the number of highly intelligent children may be limited, thus there may be few available peers who appreciate the same things they do.

**Example:** A typical student wants to discuss Pokemon while a gifted student is interested in black holes

# *Peer Relations*

## How it can manifest

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- Gravitate towards intellectual peers
- Look for peers who have similar conceptions and expectations of friendship
- Because they have difficulty finding peers, they may be socially isolated

# Underachievement

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Underachievement occurs when a child's performance is below what is expected based on the child's ability.

**Example:** A child is working at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level with the rest of class, but has the ability to work at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level.



# *Underachievement*

## How it can manifest

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- Negative attitude toward school, learning and self
- Uncomfortable with competition and risk
- Lack of goal-directed behavior
- Disruptiveness, increased social isolation
- Doesn't appear to be the “star student”

# Quote

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“Not every child has an equal talent or an equal ability or equal motivation; but children have the equal right to develop their talent, their ability, and their motivation.”

- John F. Kennedy

# Davidson Institute Programs and Services

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- Davidson Young Scholars
- The Davidson Academy of Nevada
- Educators Guild
- Davidson Fellows Scholarships
- THINK Summer Institute
- Davidson Gifted Database

[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org)

# Davidson Young Scholars

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A *free* nationwide program for profoundly gifted youth ages 5-18

- Consulting Services
  - Academic Support and Educational Advocacy
  - Talent Development
  - Child and Adolescent Development
- Online Community
  - Seminars
  - eLists
  - Private website
- Young Scholar summer get-together

# The Davidson Academy of Nevada

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A *free* public school serving profoundly gifted students

- No grade levels; all students grouped by ability, not by age
- A Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) allows each student to be appropriately challenged, enabling him/her to proceed through the curriculum at a pace and depth consistent with the student's knowledge and motivation
- Applicants must be performing at an advanced middle school level

# Educators Guild

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*Free* services to educators involved with meeting the unique academic needs of gifted students

Members have access to:

- An Online Community
- Consulting Services
- eNewsletters

# Davidson Fellows Scholarships

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A scholarship program established in 2001

- \$50,000, \$25,000 or \$10,000 scholarships
- Applicants must submit a detailed project or portfolio that is considered a significant piece of work at graduate-level
- Submission categories include: Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, and Outside the Box

# THINK Summer Institute

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A three-week residential summer program offering a college experience to highly gifted students

- For 13 to 16-year-old students with the opportunity to earn six transferable college credits
- 2011 course offerings include:
  - Computer Science
  - Business
  - Cultural Anthropology
  - Calculus
  - Philosophy
  - Communication



# Davidson Gifted Database

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A *free*, online database with resources and articles for and about gifted students

- Searchable, online library
- State Policy Database – Gifted education mandates and funding
- Gifted Issues discussion forum

# Closing

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**Thank You**

[www.DavidsonGifted.org](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org)

# Resources

## Books and Publishers

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[www.AccelerationInstitute.org](http://www.AccelerationInstitute.org)

- *A Nation Deceived: How Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students* – Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration (IRPA)

[www.GiftedBooks.org](http://www.GiftedBooks.org)

- *Living with Intensity* – Daniels, S. & Piechowski, M.
- *Guiding the Gifted Child* - Webb, J., et al.
- *Re-Forming Gifted Education: Matching the Program to the Child* - Rogers, K.

[www.Prufrock.com](http://www.Prufrock.com)

- *Developing Math Talent* - Assouline, S. & Lupkowski-Shoplik, A.
- *Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children* - Delisle, J.

[www.FreeSpirit.com](http://www.FreeSpirit.com)

- *Freeing our families from perfectionism* - Greenspon, T.

[www.DavidsonGifted.org/DB](http://www.DavidsonGifted.org/DB)

- Resources > Browse by Topic; Plus, lots of Articles on various gifted topics
- *Tips for Parents: Parenting for High Achievement and Avoiding Underachievement*

### **Other Publishers**

- *Raise Your Child's Social IQ* – Cohen, C.; Advantage Books
- *Friends Forever* – Frankel, F. ; Jossey-Bass