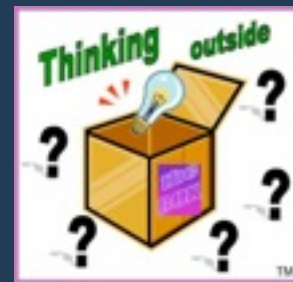


Thinking

IN
EDUCATION

Thinking Outside The Box

Professional education services provided by
Penny Willoughby



Penny's vision is to help gifted children find their place in the world.

Inspired by excellence, Penny believes that:

- Every *child* should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential
- Every *parent* should have the information they need to best encourage and support their child
- Every *educator* should have the specialised guidance they need to enable them and their school succeed



Founded by Penny in 2006, Thinking Outside The Box professional education services gives life to her beliefs by providing quality, personalised services to parents, schools, educators and, of course, to children!

Penny's reflections

Have you identified who your high ability students are?

Recently I was working with a school to help them identify who their high ability (gifted) students were. I sometimes find that teachers are nervous about identifying a student as being 'gifted' - and I understand this concern. But when we don't know the capability of our high ability students, two critical situations can result:

1. We don't impart suitably high expectations to the student who has high ability but is **underachieving**. These students can be hidden from view, even

for experienced and insightful teachers. The last thing we want is to have taught a student and never realised that he or she had amazing ability that we didn't nurture.

2. A high ability student becomes **disengaged** in response to not being challenged at their level. Students are often compliant and unwilling to let you know that they are doing activities that are too easy.

In the long run, as teachers, we hope that we have helped each student reach their potential. When

we know that a student's aptitude is in, say, the 93rd percentile of their cohort, we know we need to stretch them with more conceptual and deeper thinking activities.

Confidently identifying your highly able students is actually **nothing to be afraid of**. I work with schools for 1 to 2 hours to do enable them to do just this. I also provide **inexpensive assessments** for schools and parents or can set up your school to do these in-house.

If you would like to know how to confidently identify your highly able students, please contact me on 0418 520 023 or penny.willoughby@mac.com

March

2014

*Better than a thousand days
of diligent study is one day
with a great teacher.*



Seminars

I loved meeting with parents and teachers who came to a recent information evening.

Reassurance and like minds

One of the themes from the night was that parents enjoyed discussing their child's educational needs with parents of other children with similar needs. It's not commonly understood that highly able children have different learning needs or that their experience of school is sometimes very frustrating.

More seminars

Here are the next sessions:

7:00pm, Thursday, 1 May (Brighton area)

A new perspective on understanding and supporting social and emotional development in highly able children

7:00pm, Thursday, 31 July (Brighton area)

Helping highly able children and teenagers manage and move beyond the stressful challenges of being highly able

These evenings are free and usually fill fast. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Penny on 0418 520 023 or at penny.willoughby@mac.com

Useful resources



At a recent **parent** evening I was asked about useful resources on highly able children's quirks and learning needs. Here are some recommendations:

Daniels S & Piechowski M, 2009, *Living With Intensity: Understanding the Sensitivity, Excitability and Emotional Development of Gifted Children, Adolescents and Adults*, Great Potential Press, Tucson, AZ.

Galbraith J, 2009, *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide*, Free Spirit Publishing Inc., Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Silverman L, 2002, *Upside-Down Brilliance*, DeLeon Publishing Inc., Denver, CO, USA.

For a more comprehensive list, and many that are useful for **teachers** too, visit my website at:

www.thinkingoutsidethebox.com.au

Term 2 programs

Thinking Outside The Box programs for Term 2 will be announced soon.

If you want to know what's coming up and aren't already subscribed to this newsletter, you can subscribe by emailing penny.willoughby@mac.com

All Day program

Are you looking for something different for your child or student?

New!

*Two outstanding teachers of gifted children,
One small class of like-minded students,
Four days of learning excitement!*

Thinking Outside The Box All Day Program is different and unique. It has been designed to meet the needs of highly able children, aged from nine to fifteen, who would benefit from personalised engagement and development in a small, dynamic group of like-minds.



The program runs for four days and fosters critical thinking, creative problem solving, concept-based studies, development of individual passions, reflections on being highly able, building resilience and celebration of uniqueness & achievements.

Early bird discount extended to 17 March for readers!



For children and students of readers the Early Bird discount (10%) will be extended to 17 March. Please mention this offer when you call or email to register your interest:

0418 520 023 penny.willoughby@mac.com

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