

STaR Gifted Program

The STaR Association recognises that support is often needed when a child's development is advanced. Intellectual and social-emotional characteristics commonly seen in gifted children can create a poor fit with same-age peers and with educational experiences designed with typical development in mind. Issues for the child, parents and educators can arise.

In the National Quality Standard for Australian early childhood services, 'children who are gifted or have special talents' are included among children with additional needs who may require some adjustments to the typical curriculum. STaR's vision is to offer support to potentially gifted children, their families and their educators in childcare centres, preschools and family day care programs.

Our Gifted Program currently offers

- Consultancy and/or on-site professional learning for early childhood services that have one or more children aged 2-5 who have been assessed as gifted or are suspected to be gifted - or would like to provide programs that cater better for these children within the context of the Early Years Learning Framework
- Scheduled professional learning workshops for early childhood educators at a range of venues
- Consultancy to establish and/or support a playgroup for families with potentially gifted young children
- Consultancy for parents who know or suspect their child is gifted and would like to discuss any issues or concerns, including transition to school. This could include a visit to the child's early childhood service or a negotiated package of visits, with the permission and cooperation of the service.
- Parent group workshops on understanding and supporting young gifted children, either in general or relating to a specific issue
- Assessment for potential giftedness that is a less comprehensive alternative to an IQ test for children aged 3-5 (IQ results are more reliable from age 6). Information is considered from parents, early childhood educators and brief ability tests.

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