

While schools serve a critical role in our society, not every school is a good match for every child. Homeschooling can be an ideal academic alternative for gifted children, because it provides an education tailored to individual intellectual, social and emotional needs.



WHAT DOES “GIFTED” MEAN?

“Gifted” is a category also known as “gifted and talented” (GT) or “high potential.” There are many commonly used definitions; GHF recommends taking a more holistic view of the child rather than singling out a number (as in IQ score) or particular achievement. Research tells us that parents tend to be the best identifiers of gifted children. If you are not sure if your child is gifted, visit our web site for links to characteristics common to gifted children.

WHY HOMESCHOOL?

Homeschooling provides an educational environment tailored to meet the needs of the gifted child without the repetition of a modern, sequential curriculum; a focus on standards that do not support individual potential; or artificial social relations which are often poorly suited to gifted children.

Flexibility is an important benefit of homeschooling, allowing the gifted child to set the pace of learning and work from a wide variety of educational materials. The focus can be placed on individual strengths and interests while leaving room to work on any weaknesses. Homeschooled children have more time to pursue interests not covered in the classroom or to find experts willing to share their specialized knowledge. They often have greater access to like-minded children of other ages (intellectual peers rather than age peers) and to the many resources online, in the community and at the library. There is more freedom to travel for education and social interaction.

From a social-emotional standpoint, homeschooling parents can be more available to help their child navigate difficult situations as they occur. There is no need for a highly sensitive child to learn socialization by the “sink or swim” method on the playground.

Homeschooling gifted children reduces boredom issues, eliminates comparisons with other students and allows the children to find themselves, both academically and within their community. While there are certainly challenges with educating gifted children outside of the traditional school system, the flexibility of homeschooling allows each child’s unique needs to be met, resulting in long-lasting social and emotional benefits.

WHO IS GHF?

As the number of gifted homeschoolers has grown, so has the need for identifying resources and relevant information, as well as connecting families who share similar situations. Gifted Homeschoolers Forum (GHF) is the leading organization in the country focusing on the needs of families educating a gifted child at home. Our mission is to increase awareness of homeschooling as a viable educational alternative for gifted children, to advocate for gifted homeschoolers, and to work with other education-related entities to increase acceptance of homeschooling for gifted children. Through our outreach (website, online community, and speaking engagements) we serve thousands of families across the US and around the world.



THE GOALS OF GHF ARE:

- *to link interested families with information and resources regarding educating a gifted child outside the traditional school system*
- *to provide gifted homeschoolers with the opportunity to network and exchange ideas and resources*
- *to increase awareness of homeschooling as a viable educational alternative for gifted children*
- *to advocate for gifted homeschoolers as needed*
- *to network with other education-related entities in support of these goals*

CONNECTING ONLINE

To help families connect, GHF sponsors an email distribution list for families who homeschool their gifted children or are considering homeschooling. Join us at www.gifted-homeschoolers.org/maillinglist.html

GHF also offers a smaller list dedicated to professionals who work with this population. Professional resources can be found at www.giftedhomeschoolers.org/professional-resources.html

GHF MEMBERSHIP

By becoming a supporting member, you are allowing us to continue our work of maintaining the GHF community. Membership benefits include discounts on books, services, and speakers, and, of course, a membership card with your name on it and a tax deduction for the full amount of your membership.

To join GHF, visit our website at:

www.giftedhomeschoolers.org

Membership is \$24.00 and is valid for one year.

GHF is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Gifted Homeschoolers Forum
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Supporting gifted
homeschoolers through:

- Resources
- Information
- Events & Speakers
- Networking
- Advocacy

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