

## About Us . . .

The Canterbury Association for Gifted Children and Youth (CAGCY) began in 1976 to provide information and support for gifted children and their families.

We work hard to lobby for the recognition of the special needs of gifted children in education. Whilst substantial progress has been made, we continue to work with educators at all levels to improve educational provision for gifted children.

We offer an exciting programme of activities and events for all the family, aimed at encouraging and supporting the social and academic development of our gifted children and youth.

## Membership

There are two levels of membership.

- CAGCY Membership is open to all individuals, families, organizations and schools with an interest in giftedness. We offer access to information on gifted children through monthly adult education evening seminars, and through our newsletter.
- Discoverer's Club Membership is open to families where at least one child is in the top 5% of intellectually gifted. CAGCY members may apply for Discoverer's Club membership. Applications for membership must include either an assessment of the child by a registered educational psychologist, or a portfolio containing examples of work. If one sibling is accepted, then all other siblings are automatically also accepted.



## Canterbury Association



for EST. 1976

## Gifted Children & Youth

# Information and Support for Families and Educators

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## Is My Child Gifted?

Giftedness shows itself in many different ways, from early speech/reading, ability with numbers, extensive concentration or even ability with jigsaws.

Gifted children need to be recognised and supported. If they are not challenged and stimulated, they can become frustrated. Problems can result as they react to this by dumbing down and becoming withdrawn and depressed. Other children might exhibit behavioural problems.

Parents wanting to do the best for their child look for the support they need, so if you feel your child might be gifted, please contact us for more details and support.

Kate Coleman  
CAGCY President  
Tel: (03) 386 0074 or 027 555 95 35

## CAGCY for Children and Youth

CAGCY offers a range of activities for children and youth of all ages. We aim to support and celebrate the special qualities of these highly gifted children by offering them the opportunity to learn and have fun in a stimulating environment, making friends with like-minded peers. Discovering that there are other children who think like you do, that you are not an 'odd-ball' or a 'nerd' can be life-changing and can make a huge contribution towards self-confidence and happiness.

### Weekend Discoverer's Club Activities

These activities are designed to broaden horizons and encourage perfectionists to take risks. Recently events have included special behind-the-scenes tours, chess, expert scientists, drama improvisation and creative art.

### After School and Day Time Classes

CAGCY offers a programme of after school classes, as well as Pre-school and Home Educators workshops during the day, and school holiday workshops. These are all run by qualified and experienced tutors. Subjects covered so far have included computers skills, drama, musical theatre, theatre sports, art and science. Our classes are very popular and early booking is essential!

### Preschool Play Group - 'Like Minds'

Weekly sessions during the school term, with a mixture of structured and free creative play, and a puzzle and book library. 'Like Minds' playgroup is open to all, and is a good place to find out more about CAGCY. The children enjoy the opportunity to interact with their intellectual peers, and parents welcome the support of others facing similar challenges and issues.

### Home Educators Group

Home educated gifted children and their families meet to socialise, undertake activities, and offer support to each other in their educational journey.

### Youth Group (10 - 25 years)

We run an Intermediate and a Youth Group, which offer regular activities and social occasions for youth.

### Annual Camp

Our annual Show Weekend Camp at Woodend is a highlight of the year. Children and their families explore new challenges and make new friends in a safe and supportive environment.

### Special Events

We have a variety of special events throughout the year including our annual Quiz and special events for Christmas.

### Links With Other Organisations

Links with other organisations, such as Childwise, the Library Learning Centres, and the University of Canterbury Science Outreach, have also given our children a range of exciting opportunities. We will continue to develop such links in the future.

## CAGCY for Adults

### Adult Education

We offer monthly seminars on a wide variety of topics related to giftedness. Learn about the latest developments in gifted education, as well as tips and ideas on all aspects of parenting gifted children. These are open to all, with CAGCY members enjoying the benefit of free entry. Recent topics covered include: 'How Parents and Educators Can Work Together To Support Gifted Children', 'The Importance of Music in Education', 'Acceleration - The Pros and Cons', 'Gifted Children and Art', 'Educating Gifted Preschoolers' and many more.

### 'Twice Exceptional' Support Group

Children who are highly gifted, but also suffer from a physical or learning disability, for example, dyslexia, face particular challenges. This parents' support group aims to assist parents and their children to meet these challenges.

### 'Social Sparks'

Regular evening get-togethers allow parents and educators to share experiences, talk through issues and make friends.

### Coffee Time

This is a day time session, held once a week and open to all. It is often the first place parents come when they have realised their child might be gifted. Support, information (and coffee/tea!) have helped many a parent to realise they are not alone with the issues they face.

### Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter keeps you up-to-date on all our activities and social events, as well as latest developments in gifted education.

