

More Able and Aspiring



Toot Hill School Support for Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are seen as partners in their child's learning and support should be offered to them in terms of what it means to have a 'more able' child in the family.

The following are suggestions for supporting able children at home:

- Read with them, even if they are good readers
- Able children enjoy learning new words – have a new word of the week at home.
- Extend their general knowledge with a fact of the week.
- Encourage physical activity to develop co-ordination and general fitness.
- Do not always focus on your child's obvious skills – encourage them to sample new activities.
- Puzzles, crosswords, logic games, word games, card games, board games all help to develop the thinking skills and social interaction.
- Learn a new language together.
- Use of high-level language when engaging in conversations
- Encourage your children to ask questions and answer them as fully and honestly as possible but admit it when you do not have a full answer.
- Help find their passion by supporting them to engage in as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible
- All children, including the most able need to develop self-esteem and confidence, to be given praise and encouragement.
- Talking with, listening to and reading with your child is one of the most important factors in the development of language. Language develops the learning pathways of the brain.
- Children need to know that parents are proud of who they are and not what they achieve. Their ability should not become the centre of the relationship between parent and child.
- Children need to be allowed 'failures' and mistakes – they are a necessary part of growing up and learning. Indeed, parents should never be afraid to say they do not understand something or that they made a mistake – it can be reassuring for the most able!
- Able children can be self-absorbed and need to be encouraged by parents to appreciate and listen to the views of others and learn to interact with others effectively.
- It is important to be aware of the needs and talents of the other children in the family.