

Building Relationships

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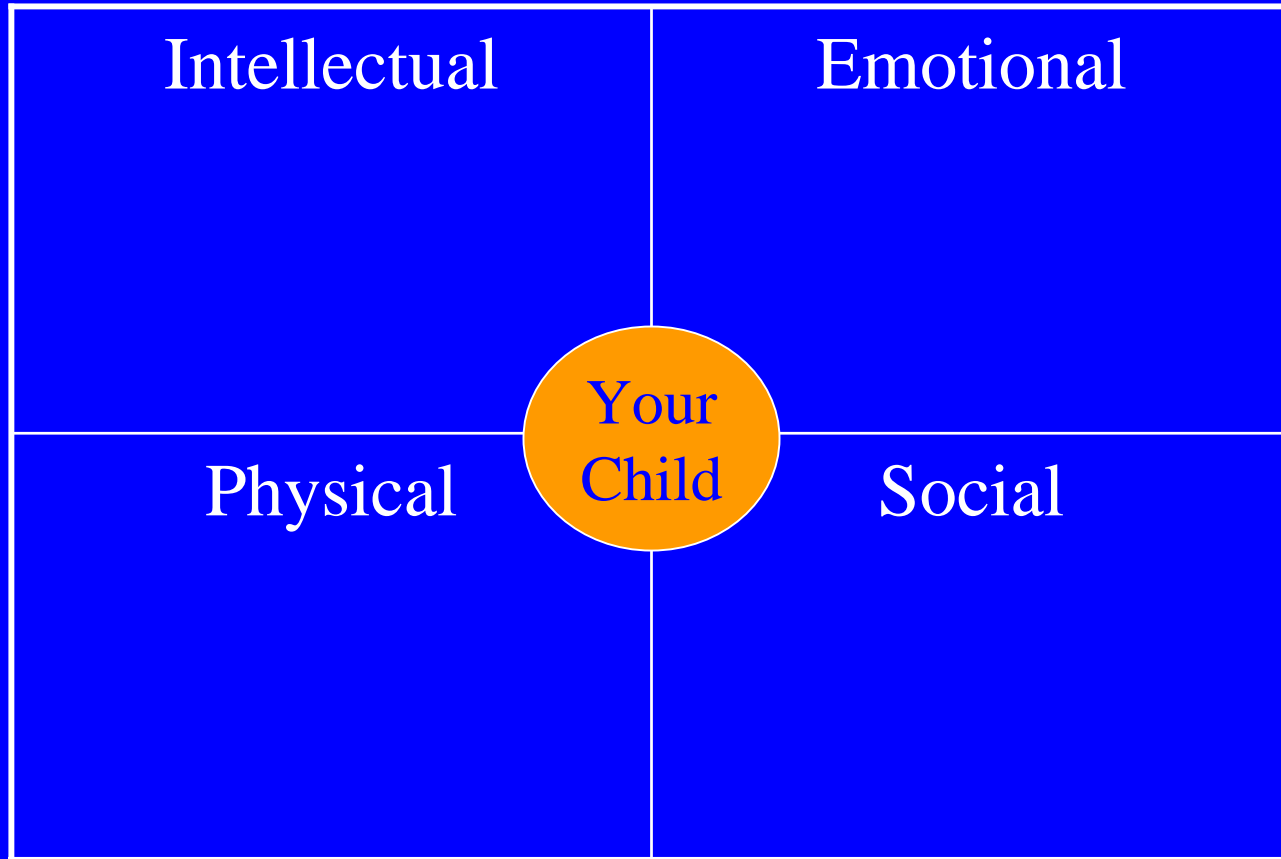
Blackshear Elementary

Thought to ponder:

“Intimate relationships cannot substitute for a life plan. But to have any meaning or viability at all, a life plan must include intimate relationships.”

- Harriet Lerner

Asynchronous development



Movie clip

- How is Fred's development affecting his ability to make friends?
- How has his level of intelligence influenced his friend selection?
- Has your child had a similar experience when trying to make new friends?

12 Tips for Making Friends

1. Reach out.
2. Get involved.
3. Let people know that you are interested in them.
4. Be a good listener.
5. Risk telling people about yourself.
6. Don't be a show off.

From The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook

12 Tips for Making Friends (cont.)

7. Be honest.
8. When necessary, temper your honesty with diplomacy.
9. Don't just use friends as sounding boards for your problems and complaints.
10. Do your share of the work.
11. Be accepting.
12. Learn to recognize the so-called friends you can do without.

Movie Clip

- How has this experience influenced Fred's emotional self?
- Has your child experienced something similar?

Parents...how do they fit in the picture?

What Gifted Students Want from their Parents:

- Be supportive and encouraging.
- Talk to your children.
- Listen to your children.
- Help with homework when applicable.
- Be understanding.
- Allow some independence by giving space and trust.

From The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook

Parents....how do they fit in the picture?

- If you have concerns about your child's social skills, make a list of them. Separate that list into two columns: "General social skills" and "How their giftedness affects social skills"
- Allow for your child to make "interest peers".
- Be aware of any bullying affecting your child that might exist in your child's classroom. Talk with the school about this problem to resolve it as quickly as possible.

Final Thought

“As the internal combustion engine runs on gasoline, so the person runs on self-esteem: if he is full of it, he is good for a long run; if he is partly filled, he will soon need to be refueled; and if he is empty, he will come to a stop.”

– Thomas Szasz

Credits

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- Gailbraith, J., Delisle, J. *The gifted kids' survival guide: a teen handbook*. Free Spirit Publishing: Minnesota.
- NAGC – Peer Relationships. [Retrieved from <http://www.nagc.org/index.aspx?id=1212> on October 6, 2006]