



Dear families, colleagues, and supporters of gifted children,

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter from Empowering Families with High Ability Children, a Special Interest Group (SIG) dedicated to the experiences and needs of parents and caregivers within the larger gifted community. Caring for and raising high ability children can be both rewarding and challenging, and many caregivers find themselves adrift without a support network. The Empowering Families SIG, which was created in conjunction with the [European Council for High Ability](#) (ECHA), seeks to be a hub for resources, connections, and collaboration. Our biannual newsletters will introduce our areas of focus for the year, communicate information about upcoming events, highlight specific parent associations, and share updates about resources available on our [website](#). We hope that this newsletter will help Empowering Families to reach more parents and caregivers, thus strengthening the supports that we've been building since the SIG was founded. We look forward to building relationships with each of you.

Warmly,

Jessica Potts, PhD

Our Focus for 2025: Sustainability

The [4th Annual ECHA Thematic Conference](#) in Karlstad, Sweden is focusing on inclusion and sustainability, with all aspects of the conference centering these themes. The Empowering Families SIG has adopted sustainability as our focus for 2025, not only because we will be presenting in Karlstad, but also because sustainability is a real concern for gifted parent associations across Europe. These are important questions that many gifted parent associations are facing, and the Empowering Families SIG is hoping to address them both at the conference and throughout the year.

While we will share more information about building sustainable parent associations on [our website](#) after the Thematic Conference, here are some brief

- Consider the structure of your parent association. Does it have a plan for retaining or replacing key members once their children have graduated from school? Sustainable associations continually train members from the inside, making it easier for others to step into leadership positions.
- Sustainable associations have many avenues for communication, both with families and with educators. Keeping lines of communication open and retaining institutional knowledge in a publicly accessible place helps to keep everyone active and informed.
- Share the load. Burnout amongst parents of gifted children is common, which is why parent associations can be such an asset. However, associations work best when the work of advocacy, education, and support is spread across all members.



Upcoming SIG Events

ECHA Lecture

ECHA organizes monthly lectures on themes related to high ability. These lectures are held on the last Thursday of each month via Zoom. On **Thursday, 27 March 2025**, our SIG presented: "**Top Tips for Sustainable Parent Associations.**" A recording of this lecture can be found on [our website](#).

ECHA Thematic Conference

The SIG will have both oral and poster presentations at the 4th Annual ECHA Thematic Conference in Karlstad, Sweden, taking place from **16 to 18 June 2025**. We hope to see you there!

Outside Events

As summertime approaches, many families of high ability children seek out programs, camps, and ways for both children and their families to connect. Below are some events and programs that are available this summer.

- [Programs/Centres for the Gifted in EU](#) - This list, which is curated by the European Talent Centre, offers a variety of options for gifted children and their families.



Association Highlight: Potential Plus UK

Potential Plus UK began as the National Association for Gifted Children in 1967, and in 2012, we changed our name to better reflect our inclusive approach, having always believed that every child and young person should have the chance to reach their full potential, no matter their background.

Our community is a place where members can find understanding and support for the unique challenges they face. With access to our network of experts and like-minded peers, they're never alone. Many of our staff and trustees know first-hand what it's like to raise, support or educate high learning potential children. These lived experiences, combined with passion and expert knowledge, drive us to create services that truly make a difference.

We focus on several key areas in our work. For families, we offer advice, coaching, information and guidance to parents of high learning potential children, along with assessments and identification services. We also organise family events and workshops, and operate an advice line which supports parents and professionals alike. For schools and professionals, we provide training, develop resources, offer consultancy, and contribute to research and policy discussions.

Our services, such as professional assessments, advice calls, and detailed reports, are designed to empower parents to stand up for their child's social, emotional, and learning needs. We campaign for better recognition and support for gifted and twice-exceptional children, working closely with other charities, government bodies, and educators. By raising awareness and promoting evidence-based information and approaches, we aim to ensure these children and their families receive the understanding and support they need.

Potential Plus UK are passionate about making sure every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive. That's why we work hard to keep our services affordable or even free whenever possible. Over the years, we've been privileged to help thousands of families with gifted children across the UK. But we know there's always more to do. With the unwavering support of our members and volunteers, we'll keep uncovering children's potential, nurturing their unique gifts, and helping them and their families to flourish.

We warmly invite you to connect with us online or on social media. Through our website and platforms, you can discover resources, join conversations, and become part of a supportive and collaborative community. Together, we can continue making a positive difference in the lives of gifted children and their families.

Find us at www.PotentialPlusUK.org



Website & Socials

When our group started, collecting materials was very important to us. There are already so many valuable resources in different countries and institutions. Much of it has been freely accessible for a long time, but is often only known regionally. We all want to use the [Empowering Families Website](#) to share and disseminate our knowledge.

For this newsletter, we would like to draw your attention to our resources on twice-exceptionality. In our work with parents, we have discovered that parents of twice-exceptional children often feel overwhelmed and in need of specialized support. These resources are designed to be a starting point.

The main page offers several helpful introductions to the twice-exceptionality:

- [Twice-Exceptionality: An In-Depth Resource Guide for Parents](#)
- [Dual or Multiple Exceptionality](#)

In addition, there are links to pages with more in-depth information from other institutions:

- [PAGE Resources for Twice-Exceptional Students](#)
- [Guides to Twice Exceptional Students](#)
- [2eNews](#)
- [Autism and High Learning Potential](#)
- [Sensory Processing Differences and High Learning Potential](#)
- [ADHD and High Learning Potential](#)
- [Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and High Learning Potential](#)

Although our common language is English, original information in other languages is also linked:

- [German: Positive Unterstützung bei Lernschwierigkeiten \(original by Julie Skolnick\)](#)
- [German: Die vier häufigsten Fehldiagnosen](#)
- [German: Fehldiagnosen bei hochbegabten Kindern](#)

We invite all interested parties to inform themselves and to look around. We are also interested in adding further valuable links, articles, and overviews to the material. Please send any relevant materials to jpotts@davidsononline.org.



Empowering Families ECHA SIG

Polska 1211/26, 12000, Praha 2

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