

SNAP

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# Scottish Network for Able Pupils



SNAP

Winter 2009

## **Warm Seasons Greetings!**

The summer months kept us pretty busy here at SNAP. We had an exciting opportunity to share our research when three SNAP papers were delivered at the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference in Vancouver. The papers discussed highly able pupils in the early years in Scotland, the outcomes of collaborative workshops with Glasgow Museums for highly able pupils with English as an additional language, and the development of Hollywood child stars.

Our SNAP coordinator, Frances Gaughan, welcomed her first child in July– a wee baby boy, named Shay. We are delighted for Frances and her family, though we certainly miss her in the office. Until she returns, we are pleased to have Jennifer Campbell, as a temporary replacement.

Following a process of consultation with teachers, Education Authority personnel and HMIE non-statutory guidance on the education of highly able pupils will be available in November. This guidance is for early years, primary and secondary schools. It offers practical ideas for auditing practice, possible identification processes and resources for schools. Keep checking the website for details!

In September SNAP staff worked with the National Strategies' Early Years group in London. The NSEY programme sets out the commitment to raise achievement for all young children, by improving the quality of learning and teaching in early years, and by improving transition to ensure all children make appropriate progress. The team are currently producing guidelines for settings that specifically relate to highly able young learners.

## **SOME PRACTICAL STUFF:**

Have you checked out the Teachers Tools section of the London Gifted and Talented website (<http://teachertools.londongt.org/>)? There is a wealth of ready to use activities on this website. SNAP's favourite activities and games for Primary Schools include:

**Wordstone Tower:** In this game you'll be thinking about the parts that words are made of, and how they are put together to make whole words.

**The Big Dig:** In this game you'll be learning about where old words come from to make the words we have now.

**Dictionary or Doom:** In this game you'll be deciding which words are "real" words that should go in the dictionary, and which ones aren't "real".

SNAP's favourite activities and games for Secondary Schools include:

**In between the Lines:** Designer babies; homeless and begging; freedom of information. High challenge activities in English language, science, religious education and media studies.

**Hero's Journey:** encourages students to explore the structure of mythic narratives and archetypal characters. Students learn about the stages of the hero's journey, aided by colourful illustrations from film and myth.

## **Code of Practice for the ASL Act**

The needs of highly able pupils are enshrined in law under the Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act (2004). I'm sure you're aware the consultation for the Code of Practice for the ASL Act is now underway. I think that as an organisation SNAP would wish to comment on this. Would you like to be part of this response? We are delighted that highly able pupils are still mentioned directly! In particular we'd like your views on:

1. Placing requests - what might this mean for highly able pupils?
2. Higher Education - could this mean a CSP for high ability if support was from Higher Education?

Log into Moodle and tell us your thoughts! (<http://education.moodle.gla.ac.uk/mod/forum/view.php?id=84417>)

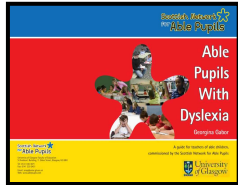
To read more about the ASL ACT, please check the link: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/10/05090858/0>



## Great News! Our newest SNAP publications are available for only £5!

This booklet aims to provide information regarding the highly able musical child, from recognising to providing for their ability through accessible, practical ideas for lessons. The ideas are open-ended and flexible for a whole range of groups. Most importantly, the publication aims to demonstrate how teachers can encourage, enhance and develop the musical skills and experiences available for all children...and themselves!

Cost £5.00



This booklet looks at learning characteristics and personality traits of able pupils with dyslexia paying attention to characteristics that are observable by the teacher, and to those that are not immediately or easily observable. Ideas for supporting pupils who are able and dyslexic are explored.

Cost £5.00

Thinking Skills has remained an important focus in Scottish classrooms and will remain so as schools implement a Curriculum for Excellence. But what does this mean in practice? In 'Thinking Skills: Adding challenge to the curriculum' Robert Fisher outlines the rationale for introducing thinking skills into the curriculum. He goes on to detail how this might be done so that we provide increased challenge not only for more able pupils but for all pupils in an inclusive classroom.

Cost £5.00



Over the coming session we hope to add to our SNAP booklet series. These booklets should help you develop practical ideas for challenging highly able learners. Topics will include working in partnership with parents and on working with museums.

**For further details or to order a booklet contact SNAP at [snap@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:snap@educ.gla.ac.uk) Or 0141 330 3071; Downloadable book order forms are available on-line at [www.ablepupils.com](http://www.ablepupils.com)**

### ***Meeting the Needs of Able Pupils in Primary 1-3***

**When?** Wednesday 28 October 2009

**Who is it for?** Teachers of Primary 1-3

**Where?** 9.30am-3.30pm St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow

**Description:** This course will consider how we meet the needs of able pupils in primary 1-3. Using a story as a starting point and linking to Curriculum for Excellence, we will explore how we can develop activities that will not only challenge able pupils but all pupils in your class.

**Cost:** SNAP members: £110. Non-SNAP members: £120 (includes, coffee, lunch and all materials)

### ***Getting Ready for Christmas***

**When?** Friday 20 November 2009

**Who is it for?** All Nursery teachers and Nursery Nurses

**Where?** 9.30am -3.30pm St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow

**Description:** This course will consider how we can use an event such as Christmas to build in challenge and excitement to activities for able young learners in the Nursery.

**Cost:** SNAP members: £110. Non-SNAP members: £120. (includes coffee, lunch and all materials)

### ***Tried and Tested Ways of Challenging Able Pupils***

**When?** Wednesday 27 January 2010

**Who is it for?** All teachers of primary 4-7

**Where?** 9.30am-3.30pm St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow

**Description:** Using the experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence as a starting point, this course will explore tried and tested ways of adding challenge to the curriculum for able pupils in the upper primary.

**Cost:** SNAP members: £110. Non-SNAP members: £120. (includes coffee, lunch and all materials)

### ***Managing Transition for Able Pupils***

**When?** Wednesday 3 March 2010

**Who is it for?** All teachers of P7 and S1, Guidance staff and Pupil Support staff

**Where?** 9.30am-3.30pm, St Andrew's Building, University of Glasgow

**Description:** This course will consider how to best manage transition for able pupils. It will explore the kind of information gathering that would be useful and look at how this information can be disseminated and used as lessons are planned.

**Cost:** SNAP members: £110 Non-SNAP members: £120 (includes coffee, lunch, all materials)

**For further details or to book an event contact SNAP at [snap@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:snap@educ.gla.ac.uk) Or 0141 330 3071**

***SNAP CPD Opportunities***