

Parent responses to *respectfully engaging with teachers and schools*

Take in evidence to support claims. Be diplomatic. Start small. Remember that some schools will have limited resources. Nonetheless, be persistent as you are your child's agent!

Try to find out about the schools philosophy/ knowledge/ stance on giftedness. Start slowly. Be calm, open and willing to share information

Initially, in an open ended discussion seeking advice. Presenting evidence of assessment to substantiate your concerns/ questions/ support

Talk – open communication. Ask questions – how might my child's abilities be catered for?

Discuss practical examples of her abilities and needs

Provide factual information, not just your instinctive feelings

I would test the waters by finding out how much experience or knowledge they have in gifted learners. I'd talk to them in terms of the specific needs of my child ie what really needs to be different for him in the classroom if his needs are going to be met. I'd be honest but still respectful in sharing with them what has and hasn't worked for him in the past.

Be crystal clear (yourself) about his strengths and lesser strengths – articulate the facts and try to avoid being driven your emotions

Show that you are eager to be part of an effective team for the benefits of your child – no blame culture!

Ask for a proper appointment to take the time and to reinforce the relevance of your concern. Be open to their thoughts and encourage regular communication