

The background features several large, stylized, overlapping swirls in shades of purple, green, and light blue. Interspersed among these swirls are numerous small, yellow, triangular starburst shapes, some pointing towards the center and others pointing outwards, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere.

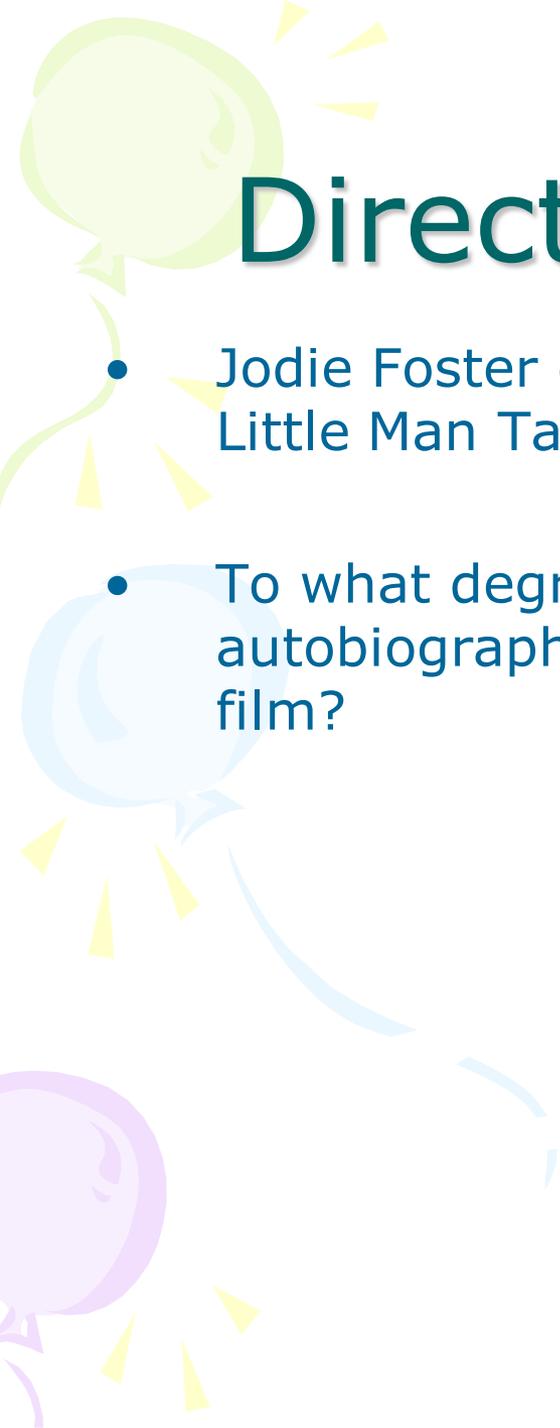
LITTLE MAN TATE

**Gifted Resources
Film/Discussion Series**



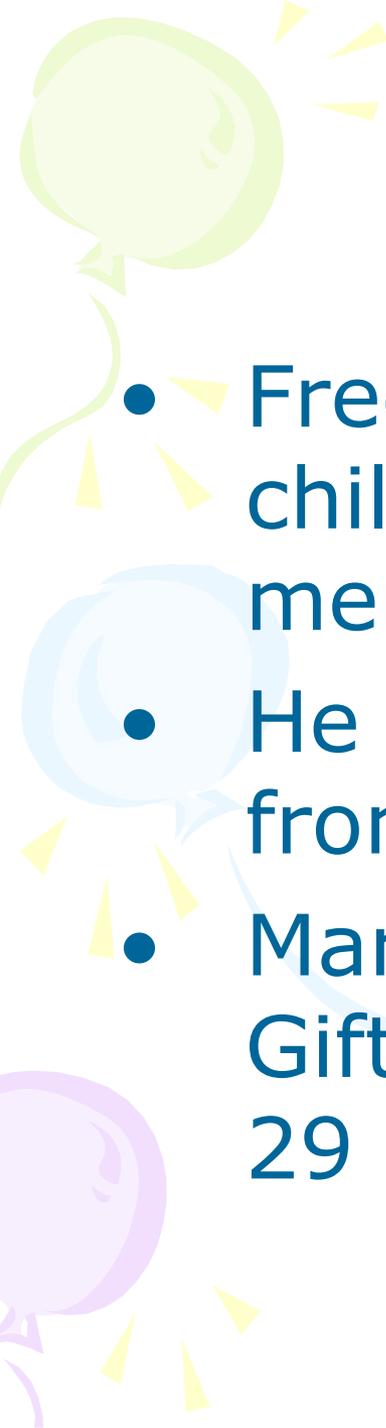
Some Internet Reviews

- [http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/little man tate/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/little_man_tate/)
- <http://us.imdb.com/CommentsShow?0102316>
- [http://www.myreviewer.com/Little Man Tate UK DVD Details/a32781](http://www.myreviewer.com/Little_Man_Tate_UK_DVD_Details/a32781)



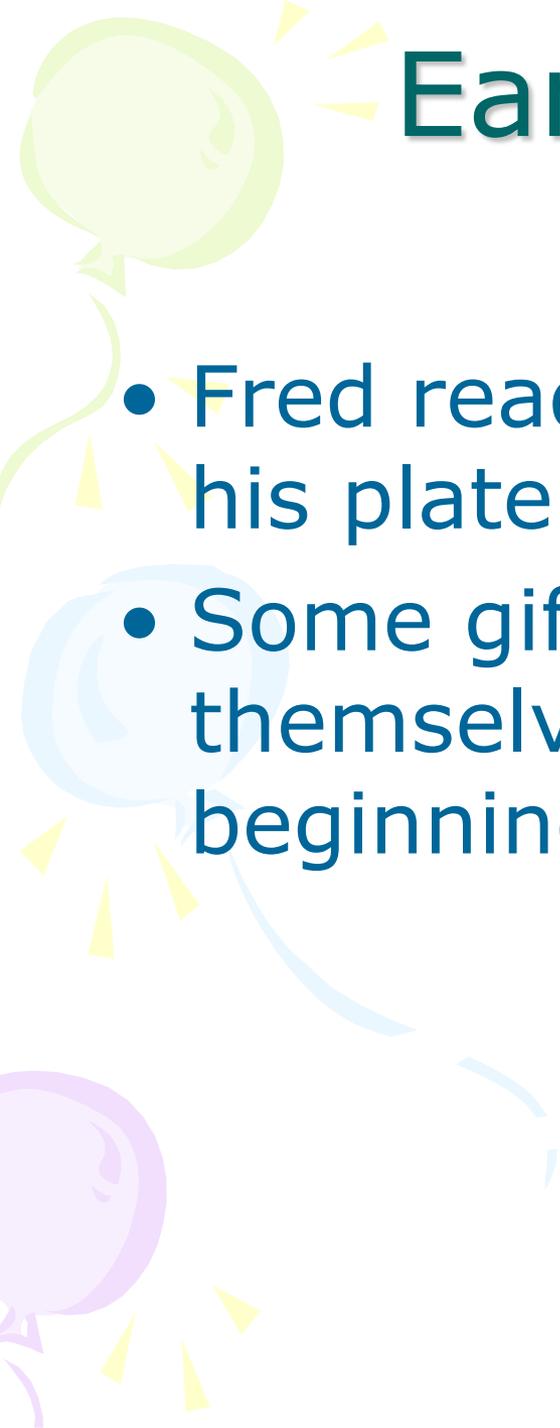
Director- Jodie Foster

- Jodie Foster directs and stars in Little Man Tate.
- To what degree is there an autobiographical influence in the film?



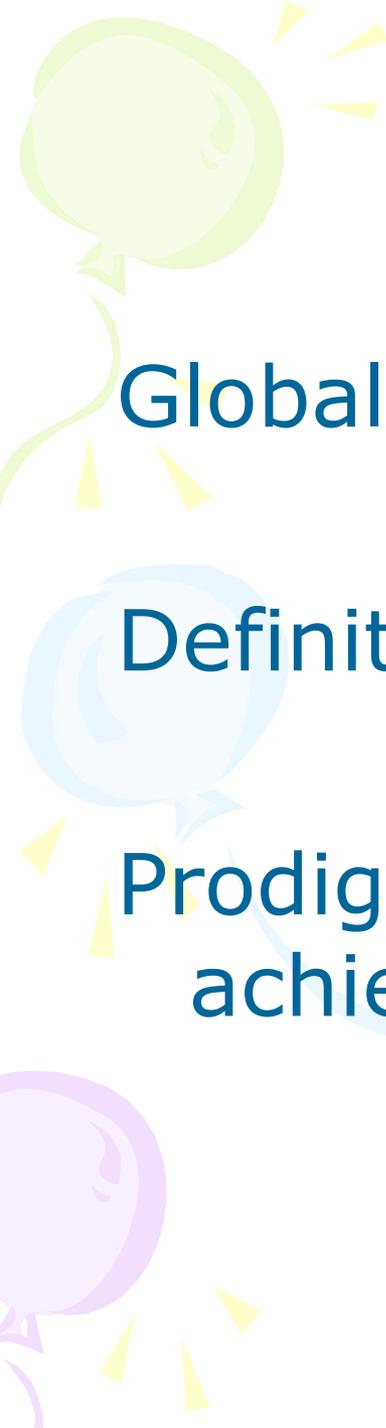
Early days

- Fred Tate has memories of early childhood that possibly include memory of his birth.
- He is described as being 'different' from birth.
- Martha Morelock & Karin Morrison
Gifted children have talents too! P
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Early attainment of milestones

- Fred reads 'Koffer' on the bottom of his plate
- Some gifted children teach themselves to read and write before beginning formal schooling

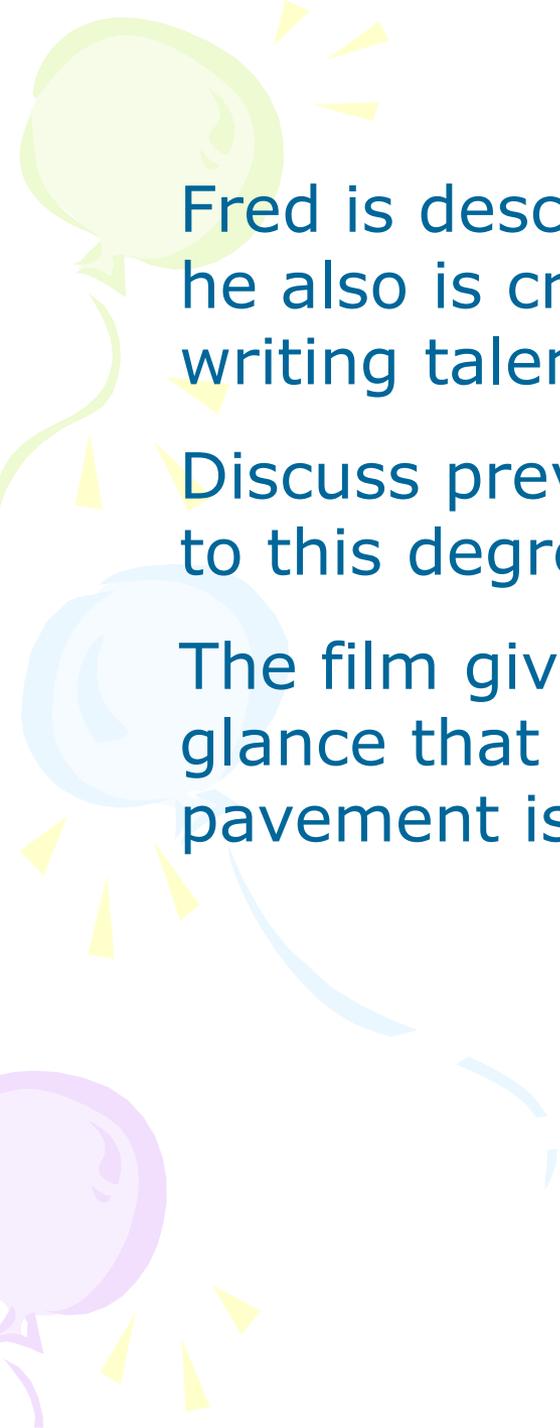


Discussion Points

Global vs. Specific Domain Giftedness

Definitions of Giftedness/Talent

Prodigy high quality adult level
achievement before the age of 10



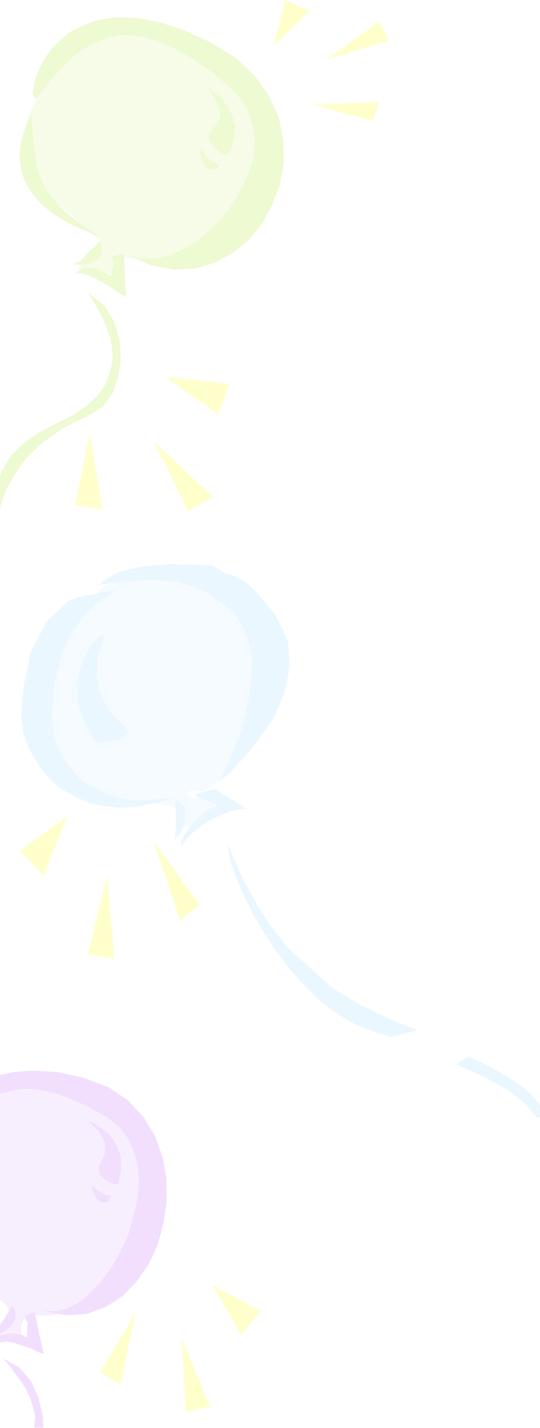
Fred is described as a maths/music prodigy but he also is credited with great artistic and poetry writing talent.

Discuss prevalence of child being globally gifted to this degree.

The film gives the impression in a fleeting glance that Fred's chalk drawing on the pavement is exceptional

Asynchronous Development

- *Giftedness is asynchronous development in which advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity combine to create inner experiences and awareness that are qualitatively different from the norm. This asynchrony increases with higher intellectual capacity. The uniqueness of the gifted renders them particularly vulnerable and requires modifications in parenting, teaching and counselling in order for them to develop optimally.*
- (The Columbus Group, 1991).

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a light green one at the top, a light blue one in the middle, and a light purple one at the bottom. Each balloon is attached to a string and has several small yellow triangular shapes around it, resembling streamers or confetti.

Giftedness as asynchronous development (Columbus Ohio Group definition) and the social adjustment problems arising from it are well shown in the playground scene, in the attempts to behave like the other children in class, and later in his attempts to fit in with the college students.

Contrast between Fred's 7th birthday party and his 8th birthday party attended by his peers from the Grierson Institute.



Van Gogh - Irises

Jane: "Why do you think only one iris is white?"

Fred : "He was lonely"

Fred is lonely because he has not yet found others like him. If the Bell Curve is a true illustration of the frequency of various levels of IQ in the population the higher the IQ the less its frequency in the population

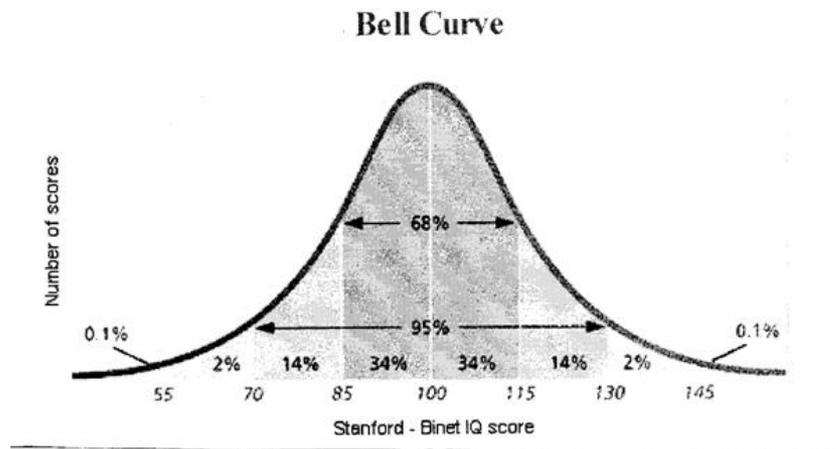
I like the symbolism of Jane having a whole garden bed of white irises at her home.

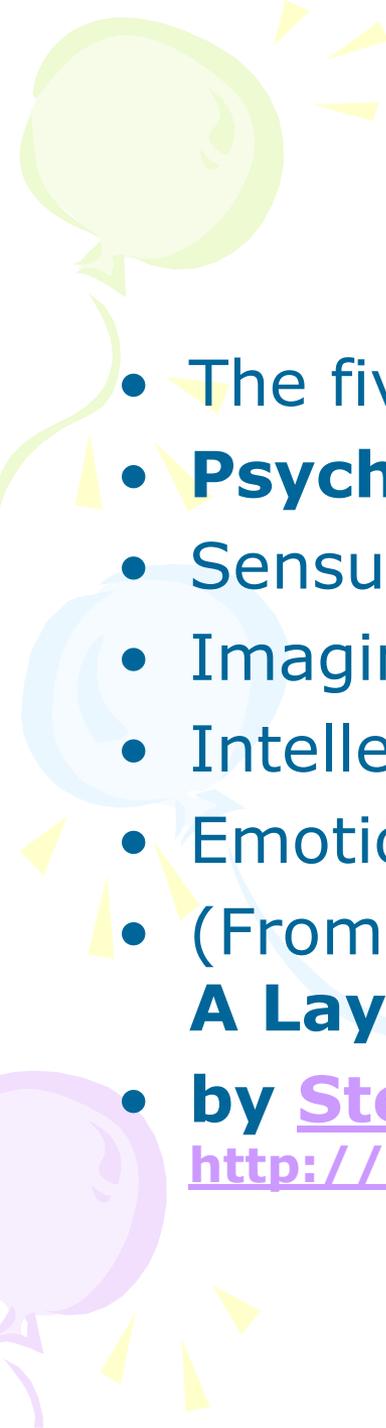
DISCUSS The Incidence of levels of giftedness in the population

What is Highly Gifted? Exceptionally Gifted? Profoundly Gifted? And What Does It Mean?

by Carolyn K., director, Hoagies' Gifted Education Page

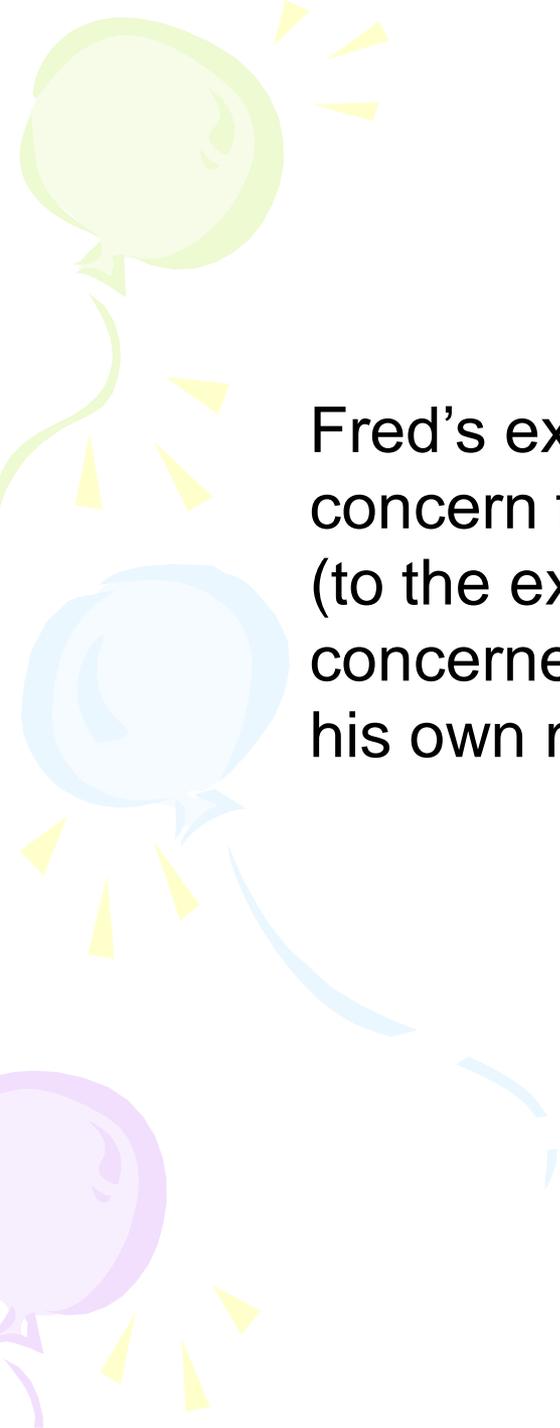
http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/highly_profoundly.htm





Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities

- The five areas are:
- **Psychomotor**
- Sensual
- Imaginational
- Intellectual
- Emotional
- (From **Dabrowski's Over-excitabilities
A Layman's Explanation**
- **by Stephanie Tolan**
<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/dabrowskis.htm>)

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide features three balloons: a light green one at the top, a light blue one in the middle, and a light purple one at the bottom. Each balloon is attached to a string and has several small yellow triangular shapes radiating from it, resembling a sun or a starburst.

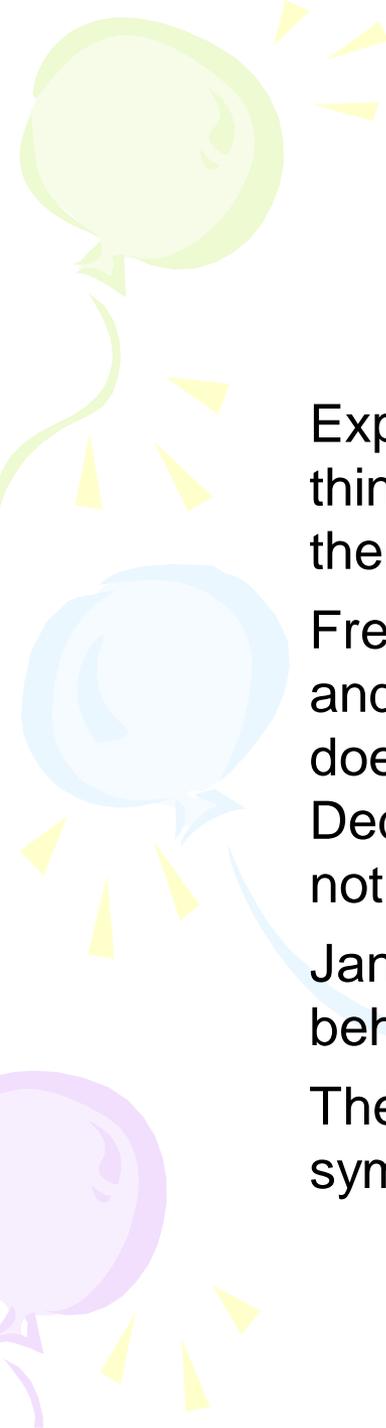
Sensitivities

Fred's extreme sensitivities are shown well in his concern for Dede's affairs and the state of the world (to the extent of getting an ulcer) and being more concerned about Damon's rudeness to Jane than his own mistreatment by him.



Existential Depression

- Existential depression is a depression that arises when an individual confronts certain basic issues of existence. Yalom (1980) describes four such issues (or "ultimate concerns")--death, freedom, isolation and meaninglessness
 - Why should such existential concerns occur disproportionately among gifted persons? Partially, it is because substantial thought and reflection must occur to even consider such notions, rather than simply focusing on superficial day-to-day aspects of life
 - (From Existential depression in Gifted Individuals by James T. Webb http://www.sengifted.org/ext_dep.htm)
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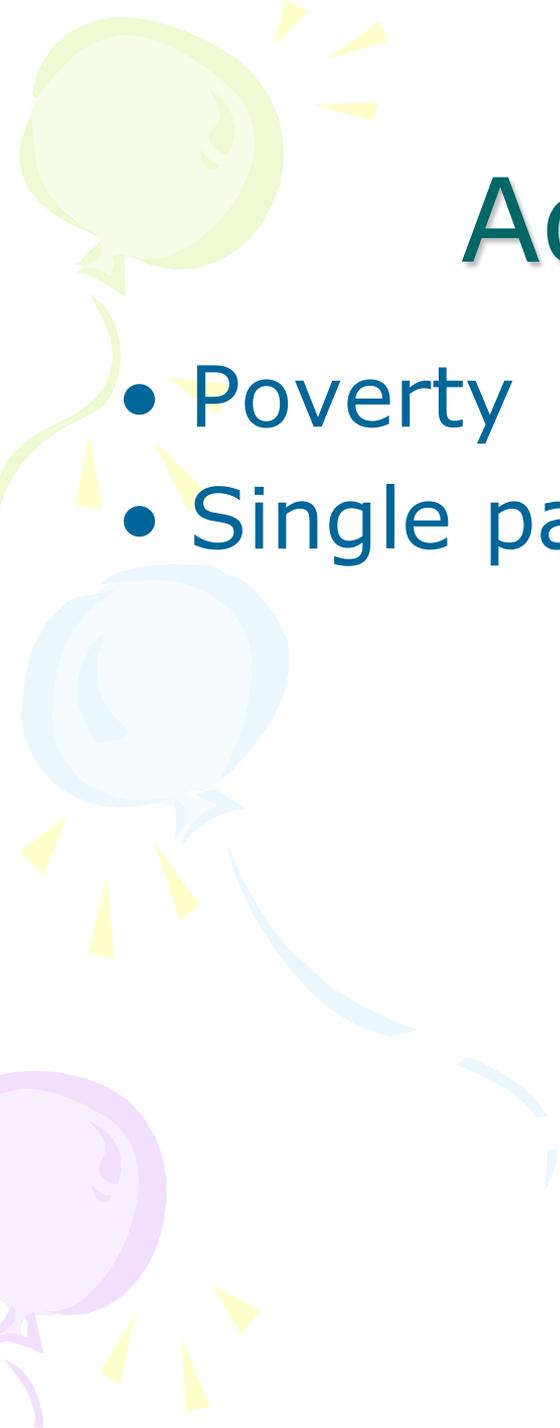
Expectations

Expectations are being put on Fred by so many people all thinking that they know what he needs and wants and none of them getting it exactly right.

Fred probably would not know himself exactly what he needed and wanted but sometimes he knows quite clearly what he does not want eg. “Every little kid wants a birthday party” says Dede but Fred knows from previous experience that he does not want his 7th birthday party.

Jane has high expectations of the children’s reactions and behaviour which fails to acknowledge their age.

The TV show host has preconceived ideas about and not much sympathy for gifted children.



Additional Issues

- Poverty
- Single parent family



Importance of Support Groups

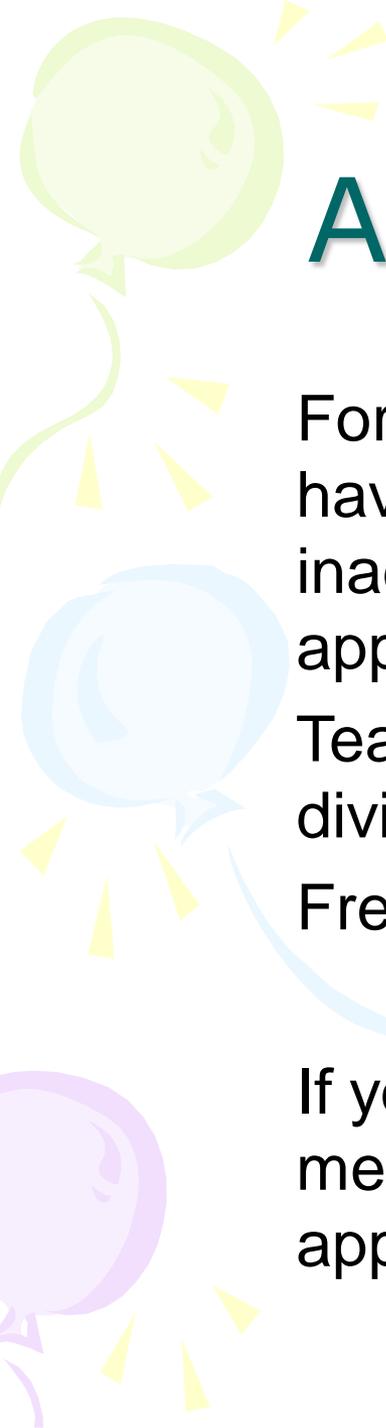
- Until Dede meets Jane she has nobody who understands the challenges she faces in raising Fred.
- Her friend is bored by the topic of Fred
- Parent support groups enable parents to discuss these issues with others who have 'been there, done that'.



Fred's mum, Dede is a single mum and cocktail waitress. She provides love, fun and comfort but is unable to provide the academic stimulation Fred needs.

Jane Grierson, the head of the Grierson Institute can provide the academic stimulation and can empathise with Fred's sensitivity but does not know how to provide emotional care as she had not been given it herself by her own parents.

Contrast in the way Dede and Jane handle Fred being unable to sleep and having nightmares.



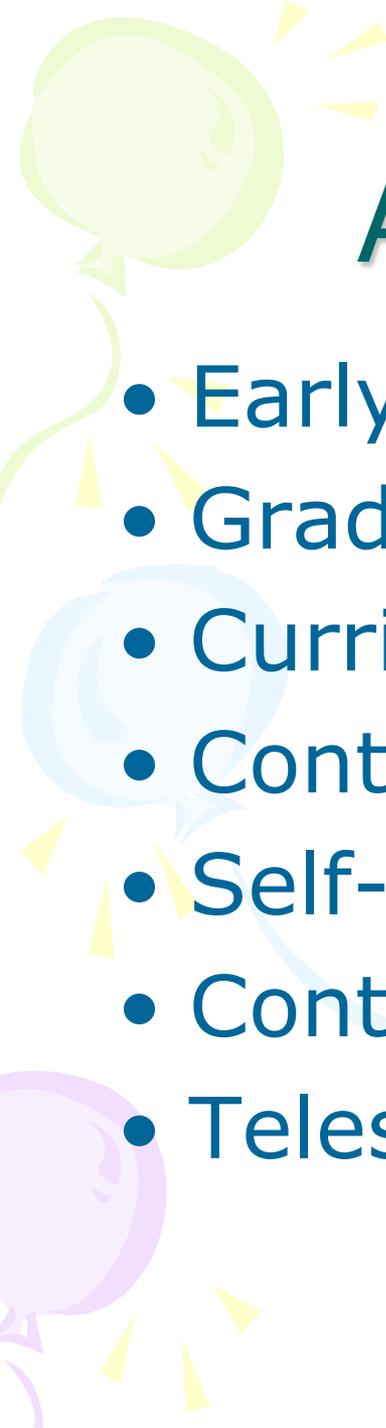
Appropriate Education

For Fred returning to the regular classroom after having a taste of the Grierson Institute makes the inadequacy of his age group setting even more apparent

Teacher: How many of these numbers can be divided by 2?

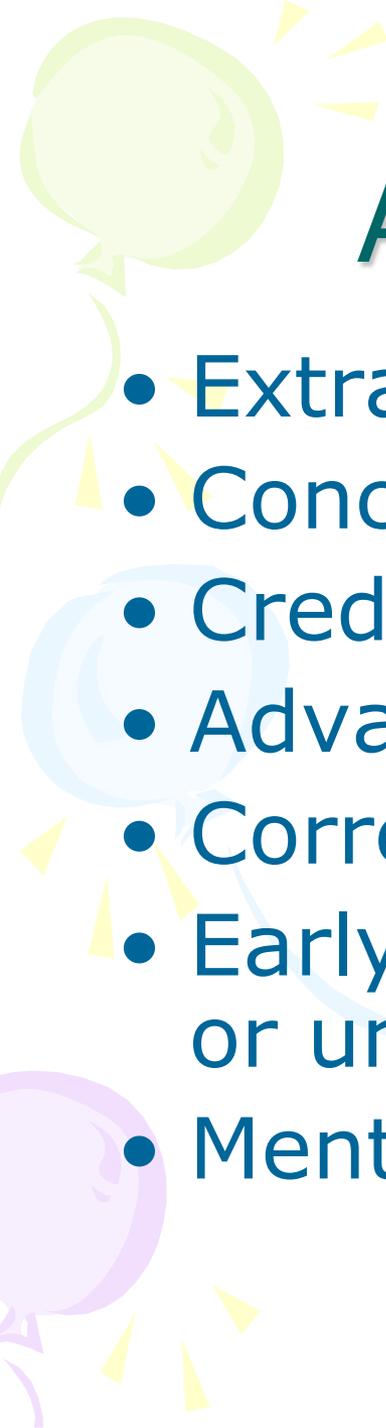
Fred: All of them

If you were the teacher of Fred's regular class what measures would you take to give Fred an appropriate education?



Acceleration Options

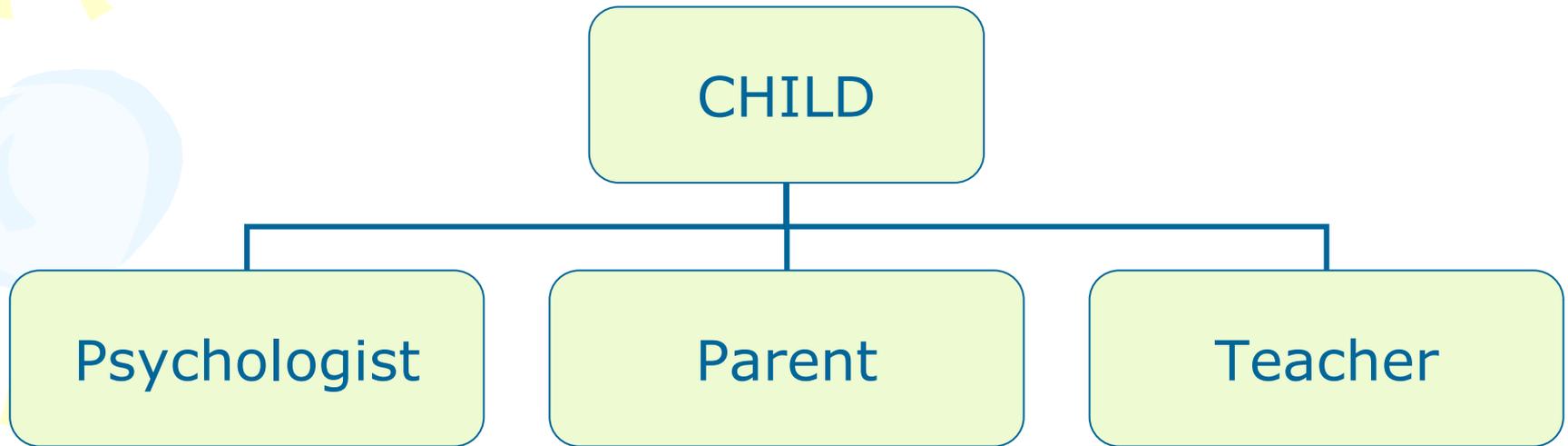
- Early school entrance
- Grade skipping or advancement
- Curriculum compacting
- Content or subject acceleration
- Self-paced instruction
- Continuous progress
- Telescoping curriculum



Acceleration Options

- Extracurricular programs
- Concurrent enrolment
- Credit by examination
- Advanced placement
- Correspondence courses
- Early entrance to secondary school or university
- Mentorship

TEAMWORK NEEDED



Good communication is needed so that all work together to meet the needs of the child without imposing own agendas.