

FINDING THEIR ELEMENT: NURTURING GIFTED KIDS' PASSIONS

Webinar Facilitator's Guide



TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE
GIFTED & TALENTED

FINDING THEIR ELEMENT: NURTURING GIFTED KIDS' PASSIONS

Introduction

(Coordinators, consider using this introduction as you welcome your group of parents.)

Every child has his or her own interests, but gifted kids can sometimes dive into their interest areas with a passion stronger than others.

Passion changes everything. This is the hypothesis proposed by educational philosopher and researcher Sir Ken Robinson in his book, *The Element* (2009). Quite simply put, “The Element is the point at which natural talent meets personal passion. When people arrive at the Element, they feel most themselves, most inspired, and achieve at their highest levels.”

In this webinar, we’ll learn why identifying, acknowledging, and nurturing your gifted child’s passions can be the key to guiding them toward not just super achievement, but a more fulfilling and rewarding life in their “element.”

Discussion Questions

- How do you see **yourself** on the Ikigai map? How might this influence the expectations and hopes you project onto your child in terms of academics, careers, hobbies worth pursuing, etc.?
- Is helping a child discover and navigate toward their “Ikigai” the ultimate aim of education and parenting? If not, what is more important?

After pondering the case studies discussed in the webinar:

- How would this child fare in the classroom of your child’s school/district in 2019?
- Would this child likely be identified as “gifted” in your school/district?
- What connections or parallels can you draw between this child and your own child/ren?
- In what ways does modern formal schooling hinder/nurture the discovery of your child’s element?

Discussion Questions

- What types of activities seem to make time stand still or disappear for your child because they are so engrossed in the moment?
- What are your child's strongest natural aptitudes (not abilities!)?
- Take the VARK analysis questionnaire yourself and then have your child take it. If you have different learning style preferences than your child, how could this be contributing to challenges in communication?
- Choose a current obstacle your child is facing and guide them through a SWOT analysis. How did the process bring new clarity to the situation?
- Does your child have a support "tribe" of intellectual peers who share his/her passions? If not, how could you facilitate the finding of one?

More Information

Buzan, T., & Buzan, B. (2003). *The mind map book*. London, England: BBC.

Lyubomirsky, S. (2008). *The how of happiness: A scientific approach to getting the life you want*. New York, NY: Penguin.

Robinson, K., & Aronica, L. (2014). *Finding your element: How to discover your talents and passions and transform your life*. New York, NY: Penguin.

Robinson, K., & Aronica, L. (2009). *The element: How finding your passion changes everything*. London, England: Allen Lane.

Online Resources

- **Handout to supplement this presentation:** <https://numindsenrichment.com/Element/>
- **Will Robots Take My Job?:** <https://willrobotstakemyjob.com/>
- **Clifton Strengths Finder:** <https://www.gallupstrengthscenter.com/>
- **Headspace Meditation App:** <https://www.headspace.com/headspace-meditation-app>
- **Box Breathing Visual (younger kids):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFdZXwE-6fRE>
- **Box Breathing Visual (older kids/adults):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGKn-QN7zUmw>
- **Mindmapping Guide:** <https://blog.iqmatrix.com/how-to-mind-map>
- **VARK Learning Style Questionnaire:** <http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/>
- **SWOT Analysis Template and Guide:** https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newT-MC_05_1.htm

About Ben Koch

Ben Koch is driven to unite people to a greater vision and cause in education and self-development. Through coaching, teaching, and delivering progressive workshops and talks he seeks to expand horizons in education, leadership, and personal development.

Driven to make a broader impact, he left the traditional classroom in 2013 and co-founded NuMinds as a vehicle to drive the Edvolution in learning for the 21st century. Ben is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NuMinds and holds a B.A. in Rhetoric and Professional Communication from Iowa State University and a Master's degree in Gifted Education from Southern Methodist University.

After several years in the software industry thriving in communications and international project management roles, he entered the classroom and spent a decade working with students from Kindergarten to college, which sparked his passion for changing lives. He is a published author and in his spare time he runs ultramarathons, sweats in hot yoga, and writes poetry – but not all at the same time.



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