

MEDIA RELEASE



ENGAGE GIFTED KIDS WITH THE ART OF CONVERSATION

Parenting a gifted child isn't always easy. Being a gifted child isn't always easy. And teaching gifted children can be very difficult indeed...

So many television shows focus on the gifted child from central casting – obedient, motivated and conscientious. But anyone who has had much experience with these children will tell you that they are usually very individual. There are as many types of gifted kids as there are of kids in general.

It's fair to say that many of these children lack social skills, and in particular, listening skills. A new game which promises to help children develop as confident speakers, better listeners and great all-round communicators, is expected to have special applications in gifted education.

Following the success of their original game, The Art of Conversation, creators Louise Howland and Keith Lamb have adapted the concept to create **The Art of Conversation for Children (TAOC)**. Suitable for players from five years to adults, TAOC helps children put complex ideas into words, share their ideas and feelings and respect the views of others.

It also helps them learn to wait their turn – no matter how compelling the information they may want to share – and to speak as clearly as possible. It can be equally valuable in toning down 'over-the-top' types, and in drawing out shy children.

The game may be played in nine different modes, both competitive and non-competitive – there's even a solo mode. Like the original game, it is professionally-accepted as a resource for use in therapy, education (including anti-bullying programmes), counselling and language teaching.

Most gifted children love to share their knowledge, but TAOC helps them to do it in a structured and coherent way, not in a rush. It can also be used with gifted children who suffer from autism spectrum disorders, such as Asperger's syndrome, to help them understand how different people experience the world in different ways.

TAOC will not only help children to become confident speakers and attentive listeners – it's also great fun for players of any age. It's also a handy dispute-resolution tool that can be used within families, school groups and other groups.

The original TAOC is now available in French and German editions, with three English-language versions – the Australian original and US and UK variants. More editions are planned soon. The children's version was a logical next step, and provides a great way for gifted children, in particular, to learn new ways of effective communication.

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