



# Parent Matters Workshops



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These are Potential Plus UK's ten most popular parental workshops delivered in schools. They can be delivered individually or as a series, for example the first three workshops build on each other. Alternatively, 'Parenting a Most Able Child' could be followed by another one that picks up particular issues for your schools' parents. These introductory workshops are ideal for parents and carers of your most able cohort. Several of them are also suitable for all parents, for example Creative and Critical Thinking.

If you need help in identifying or providing for your most able learners in the classroom, please do not hesitate to contact us for professional support through our CPD programme 'Learning Matters for Most Able pupils'.



## What is 'Most Able'?

This workshop is an ideal starting point for parents and carers new to 'most able'. Confusion often exists about what 'most able' really means. Or maybe your school uses 'gifted and talented' or 'highly able'. So how do the various descriptions differ from each other?

This workshop informs parents about these different terms and the type of criteria schools might be using to identify their brightest pupils. Then it looks at the common characteristics of these children and introduces parents to identifying the potential in their child.

## Parenting a Most Able Child

This workshop provides parents and carers new to 'most able' with ideas and tips on supporting their child outside the classroom. The workshop builds on the characteristics identified in 'What is 'Most Able'?' (or it can look at this afresh). It encourages parents to consider what they can do to ensure that their children can thrive and reach personal success, covering areas such as opportunities, motivation, aspiration and hard work!

## Parents and Schools Working Together

It is crucial for parents and schools to work together to support their most able children. When this happens, most able children are best supported and more likely to be fulfilled and reach their potential.

This workshop informs parents and carers about how most able children are supported in school and shows them how to work most effectively with the school to support their child.

## Raising Aspirations

This workshop has been successfully piloted in the Black Country and is aimed at the parents and carers of most able learners aged 14+ to raise aspirations in families with no previous experience of higher education. It covers the myths and facts about going to university, with tips and ideas for families to follow up at home. The workshop can be held in a non-school environment if this is likely to encourage wider participation.

## Supporting Most Able Children's Social and Emotional Needs

Most able children have some common social and emotional issues that are often misunderstood, such as poor peer relations, emotional sensitivity and strong opinions. This workshop explores some of these issues, so that parents and carers go away with practical strategies to use at home to better meet the needs of their children.

## Creative Thinking

This workshop offers participants ways to help their child to think creatively whilst having fun doing it themselves! They come away understanding what creative thinking is and with a whole host of activities and ideas to try at home. This is a very 'hands on' workshop.

## Critical Thinking

Critical thinking skills are essential tools for any child and can be used in a variety of ways both at school and at home. This practical workshop gives parents opportunities to explore what critical thinking is all about and to look at ways to help their children develop their critical thinking skills, as well as practise doing it themselves!

## Maintaining Motivation

Motivation is often an issue as most able children get older and can be a source of much concern for parents. This workshop gives clarity about what happens when motivation for learning diminishes and gives participants practical strategies to use to help prevent it being lost at a critical time.

## Research and Revision Skills for Most Able Children

What type of learner is your son/daughter? Do they become overwhelmed about where to start? Do they fear failing or are totally stressed? This workshop helps parents and carers to understand the particular characteristics of most able young people that can affect their approach to research and revision, and provides practical strategies to help them support their child.

## Extending Your Child's Learning at Home

This practical workshop guides parents and carers through the importance of providing opportunities for enrichment and extension at home. It provides them with things that they can try with their child to extend their learning and develop essential skills that will benefit them not only in their education but also in life. Parents consider and try out ways of developing creative and critical thinking, creative problem solving and questioning. This is a fun and interactive session for parents!

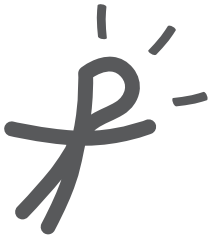
## Important Information

- All workshops last 2 hours with a short introduction by the hosting school, a 15 minutes refreshment break midway and time for Q&A at the end. Times can be adapted.
- We recommend the school outlines its most able provision/policy in the introduction if parents are not already aware of this.
- Workshops can be delivered cross phase with examples of primary and secondary age children, but are more effective if targeted at one or the other.
- These workshops are practical and provide an opportunity for parents/carers to work together in small groups, as well as receiving information from the facilitator.
- Maximum 30 parents in each workshop (not suitable for children.)
- Sessions can be delivered at a time to suit your parents/carers – midweek twilight sessions tend to be most popular.
- You know your parents best! When sending out invitations you might want to describe the event as a 'workshop', or 'information session', or 'information meeting'. You can always ask us for examples of invitations written by other schools.





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## Rates

Please contact us for a quote for a workshop or series of training to meet your needs.

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