

What BCPS Parents Need to Know About...

PRIMARY TALENT DEVELOPMENT (PTD)

Primary Talent Development (PTD) was created in the belief that *all* primary students deserve the opportunity to be nurtured and challenged in order to recognize and develop their full potential. PTD recognizes that the primary years offer a unique opportunity to ignite and develop the potential of young learners. It is built on best practices in the field of early childhood and gifted education. Primary Talent Development is a concerted effort to engage *all* primary students (PreK-2) in learning experiences that recognize developmental norms, yet offer challenge. It promotes instruction that aligns with existing PreK-2 BCPS curriculum and the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum indicators. PTD is built on a science platform that engages all students through open-ended, hands-on, problem solving experiences. PTD targets the following behavioral characteristics: Perceptive, Inquisitive, Communicative, Creative, Resourceful, Leadership, Persistent. These behaviors promote the learning behaviors associated with potential and advanced capabilities in young learners and are foundational to academic achievement and lifelong learning.

How You Can Help Develop Your Child's Full Potential at Home

To encourage *perceptive* behaviors:

- Join your child in observing patterns, details, and sorting the ways in which things are alike and different (These same concepts can be found in reading, writing, math, music, art, and science as well as everyday life.)
- Recognize and respond to your child's emotional reactions to everyday situations.

To encourage *inquisitive* behaviors:

- Guide your child in self selecting reading materials based on his or her interests and abilities.
- Encourage opportunities to explore, create, and invent by visiting parks, museums, libraries, neighborhood attractions as well as your own backyard.
- Encourage your child to use resources in seeking their own answers to a "Why?" question even if you already know the answer.
- Encourage questions and respectful challenges.

To encourage *communicative* behaviors:

- Provide time, space, and materials for your child's oral and written responses to everyday experiences.
- Use oral language that describes and explains everyday situations.
- Talk with your child to model and encourage communication skills.
- Engage in conversation with your child about what is seen and heard.

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To encourage *creative* behaviors:

- Provide your child with a variety of materials in a personal space.
- Provide your child with opportunities to make choices, follow them through, and to deal with the consequences as a means of encouraging creativity.
- Visit museums and exhibits with your child and discuss the artist's process.

To encourage *resourceful* behaviors:

- Provide opportunities for your child to be included in problem solving.
- Encourage your child to use familiar objects in new ways.
- Encourage your child to elaborate on a basic idea, such as planning a party or a trip.

To encourage *leadership* behaviors:

- Spend time alone with your child to encourage self worth and importance.
- Give your child responsibility for certain tasks.
- Allow time for your child to share or teach a skill, game, or song that he or she learned at school.
- Let your child know that you trust him or her to do what is responsible.

To encourage *persistent* behavior:

- Encourage a "stick to it" attitude by providing a few extracurricular activities for your child.
- Support your child along the way with encouraging words, a pat on the back, or a listening ear; celebrate the product or outcome.
- Keep activities challenging, yet easy enough to be completed with a positive attitude.
- Allow time for your child to become absorbed in a project.