

# STUDENT LEARNING SKILLS COURSES

- Memory - for Years 6-8
  - understanding memory, learning memory techniques
- Learning About Learning - for Years 7-10
  - developing metacognitive awareness - learning skills, strategies and personal styles for success at school
- Exam Confidence - for Years 10-13
  - practical study and self-motivation skills for high achievement in all tests and exams
- Learning Resilience - for Years 12, 13 & GATE students
  - strategies for developing flexible thinking, managing pressure, dealing with stress and developing resilience

## Ellen Winner on 'giftedness'

- 1) **Precocity** – they take the first steps in the mastery of some domain at an earlier than average age and they make more rapid progress than do ordinary children
- 2) **An insistence on marching to their own drummer** – they learn in a qualitatively different way, they need minimum help in order to master their domain, and much of the time they teach themselves
- 3) **A rage to master** – they are intrinsically motivated to make sense of the domain in which they show precocity, they exhibit an intense and obsessive interest and an ability to focus sharply

# Gifted Children:

- Mozart – composed four sonatas and a symphony by the time he was 8
- Alfred Tennyson composed a 6000 line epic poem at 12
- Picasso had his first exhibition at 16
- Jim Henson created the Muppets at 15
- Stan Lee (the creator of Spiderman) published his first comic book at 17
- Charlotte Church – signed her first record deal at 11
- Stevie Wonder released his first two record albums at 12
- Tupac Shakur started composing when he was 15
- Wade Robson was choreographing Britney Spears' stage shows at 16
- Nikki Reed at 13, co-wrote the screenplay of the movie “Thirteen”

# What 'high achieving' students think.....

| Advantages   | Disadvantages   |
|--|---|
| <p>learning is easier<br/>enjoy school more<br/>understand things easier<br/>get privileges<br/>get better qualifications<br/>get better career<br/>better grades<br/>more respect from teachers<br/>solve problems faster<br/>able to help others<br/>higher self esteem<br/>more choices in life</p> | <p>people treat you differently<br/>hard to find friends<br/>gets you mocked<br/>get bullied<br/>don't fit in<br/>get bored in class<br/>always higher expectations<br/>get teased<br/>"geek" stereotype<br/>feel isolated<br/>hide your abilities to fit in<br/>lots of pressure</p> |

# SUCCESS

**Success = Capability + Effort + Resilience**

# Praise

## ...for effort

**“you are so hard working,  
persistent, determined....”**

- links approval to an attribute of the child over which they have control - they can grow, develop and improve
- assessment becomes a measure of progress, an opportunity to learn

## ...for ability

**“you are so smart, talented,  
intelligent....”**

- links approval to an attribute of the child over which they have no control - they can't grow, develop or improve
- assessment becomes a critical judgement, an opportunity to fail

# Developing Resilient Learners

- Focus any praise for achievement on observed effort rather than ability
- Help them to focus on the processes of learning – the strategies they are using – as the best source of improvement – building *metacognitive* awareness

# Help them to learn from their mistakes - to fail well

The most significant difference between the high achievers and the underachievers was that all the high achievers had learned how to *fail well*

- whereas all the underachievers were *failing badly*



# Reactions to Failure

## *Failing Well*

- Acknowledging your failures
  - taking responsibility for your own actions
  - working out what you did wrong
  - making changes, and
  - having another go

## *Failing Badly*

- Blaming the school or the 'system'
- Blaming other people
- Pretending you never get or do anything wrong
- Adding drama to failures to avoid dealing with them
- Avoiding any activity that could possibly result in failure

# Growing Resilient High Achieving Children

- 1) Tell them your failure stories
- 2) Use role models and biographies to show them that failure, resilience and perseverance are the keystones to success
- 3) Encourage them to take on new challenges and use failure as feedback
- 4) Help them to notice their own strategies for recovery from failure

## Matapihi Kindergarten

**“We guarantee the right of your  
children to hurt themselves”**

# Over-protective Parenting

“What creates anxious children is parents hovering and protecting them from stressful experiences” (Jerome Kagan, Harvard University)

“Having overprotective parents is a risk factor for anxiety disorders because children do not have opportunities to master their innate shyness and become more comfortable in the world” (Michael Liebowitz, Columbia University)

“Those who allow their kids to find a way to deal with life’s day-to-day stresses by themselves are helping them **develop resilience** and coping strategies” (Psychology Today, 12/11/04)



5) Teach them caution not fear

6) Help them take responsibility for their own actions

7) Help them learn to fight their own battles

8) Allow them to fail

# Learning Rates

- o The learning rate of children above 130 IQ is approximately 8 times faster than for children below 70 IQ
- o 'Gifted' students are significantly more likely to retain (science and maths) content accurately when taught 2-3 times faster than "normal" class pace
- o 'Gifted' students are significantly more likely to forget or mislearn (science and maths) content when they must drill and review it more than 2-3 times

# Student Autonomy

'Gifted' students demonstrate:

- o a preference for self-structured tasks and self imposed deadlines
- o a preference for working alone or with one like ability peer
- o a preference for self-instructional tasks
- o greatest preference for independent study projects that are reading/content acquisition based
- o greater interest in learning "something new and different" rather than doing "hands-on" things.



## Some facts:

- 6 billion cell phones in the world
- 85% of new phones are web enabled
- 2 billion broadband subscriptions
- 255 million websites
- 150 million blogs
- 8 trillion text messages sent in 2011
- 107 trillion emails – 89% of which are spam
- Youtube – 48 hours uploaded every minute
  - 3 billion videos viewed every day

## What if .....

- every piece of subject matter was available to your students on the internet, and
- they all had access to internet linked tablets, and
- they all had access to high speed broadband all day....

What would school learning look like then?

# **A revolution in teaching and learning is now possible due to:**

- A focus on the teaching of learning skills in NZ through the key competencies
- The proliferation of high quality school subject based websites
- The ubiquity of internet accessible devices
- The availability of high speed broadband
- The high level of comfort your children have with the digital world

# Great Websites for studying school subjects

- **[www.taolearn.com/students.php](http://www.taolearn.com/students.php)**
  - my site with links to all the best free sites to help your children study, including:
- **[www.nobraintoosmall.co.nz](http://www.nobraintoosmall.co.nz)** - made in New Zealand especially for NCEA
  - revision notes, flash cards, test yourself activities, powerpoints and more for General Science , Biology Chemistry and Physics
- **[www.studyit.org.nz](http://www.studyit.org.nz)** - specifically for NZ NCEA
  - all aspects of NCEA covered in all the key subjects - resources, standards, study guides for English, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Earth Science
- **[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)**
  - really clear clips explaining every part of most subjects
- **<http://www.brightstorm.com>**
  - great videos and much more in Maths, Science and English (American English anyway)
- **<http://getrevising.co.uk/resources>**
  - all subjects at all levels, great new shared resources arriving from other students daily – contribute your own
- **<http://www.studyblue.com/notes/high-schools/>**
  - make and share online flashcards, quizzes and notes, study on-line and on your phone, you need to join up first but its free
- **[www.johndclare.net](http://www.johndclare.net)** and **[www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk)**
  - good sites for history, all countries, all ages

# More great sites for you

- [www.s-cool.co.uk](http://www.s-cool.co.uk) and [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/)  
- good resources for all subjects for Level 1 NCEA, GCSE and IGCSE
- [www.mrbartonmaths.com/goodsites.htm](http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/goodsites.htm)  
- a collection of free maths sites for Level 1 NCEA, GCSE and IGCSE
- [http://www.rod.beavon.clara.net/chemistry\\_contents.htm#Physical](http://www.rod.beavon.clara.net/chemistry_contents.htm#Physical)  
- great site for Chemistry at all levels
- <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>  
- many languages at every level
- [www.swipestudy.com](http://www.swipestudy.com)  
- self-tests in most subjects – sent to your phone!
- [http://www2.actden.com/writ\\_den/tips/essay/index.htm](http://www2.actden.com/writ_den/tips/essay/index.htm)  
and [www.freeology.com](http://www.freeology.com)  
- information organizers to help you write all types of essays, reports
- [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) and [www.easynotecards.com/index](http://www.easynotecards.com/index)  
- flash card makers for most subjects

It is now possible for your children to learn all  
their school subjects:

- at their own pace
- in their own 'style'
- in their own time

# Resources for Parents

- To connect with other parents like you and get good advice check out NZAGC Forum: [www.giftedchildren.org.nz/forum/](http://www.giftedchildren.org.nz/forum/)
- NZ Gifted Education Centre – lots of information and links to other sites [www.giftededucation.org.nz/index.html](http://www.giftededucation.org.nz/index.html)
- NZ Min of Ed resources for teachers, schools, parents and children <http://gifted.tki.org.nz/>
- USA site – great resources [www.hoagiesgifted.org/](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/)
- American Mensa – great resources for extending kids [www.us.mensa.org/](http://www.us.mensa.org/)
- Check out my webpage: [www.taolearn.com](http://www.taolearn.com) for tips, ideas, articles, videos
- Blog for parents: [www.lancegking.wordpress.com](http://www.lancegking.wordpress.com)

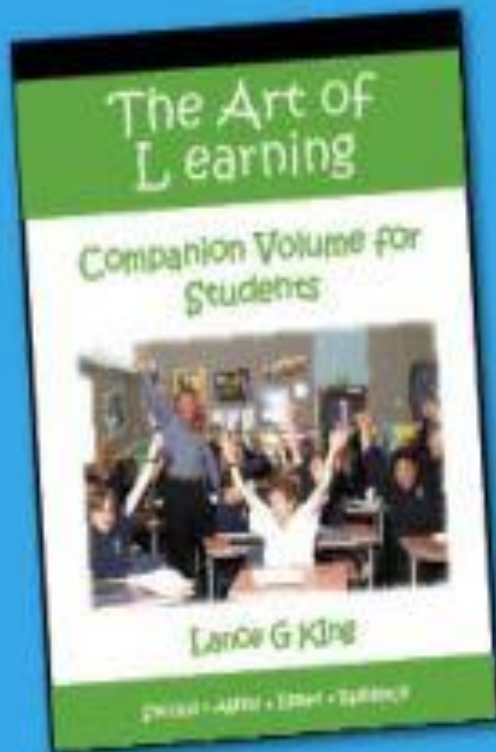
## On the net...

My web page - **[www.taolearn.com](http://www.taolearn.com)**

- Tips for Parents – through the year
- Tips for Students – multi-sensory resources
- articles
- links
- videos
- blog



# The book of the student course



**All the learning skills needed  
to pass exams in  
GCSE, IGCSE, NCEA and IB**

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Course to 150,000 students in  
six countries**

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**(Search for Lance G King - don't forget the "G")**

# Books I have found useful:

- **Hothouse Kids – *Alissa Quart***
- **The Price of Privilege – *Madeline Levine***
- **The Overachievers – the secret lives of driven kids – *Alexandra Robbins***
- **Mindset – The New Psychology of Success – *Carol S. Dweck***
- **The Optimistic Child – *Martin P Seligman***