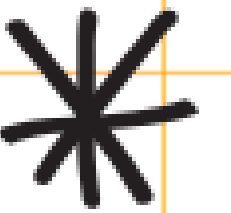
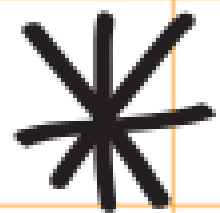


Gifted Parent Session:
Gifted Children &
Friendships





April Dailey
Gifted Specialist

Chandler Unified School District


M.A. Gifted Education from
Columbia University, NYC
Teacher of the gifted for 14 years
in CUSD





Dan Utrera
School Counselor

Chandler Unified School District

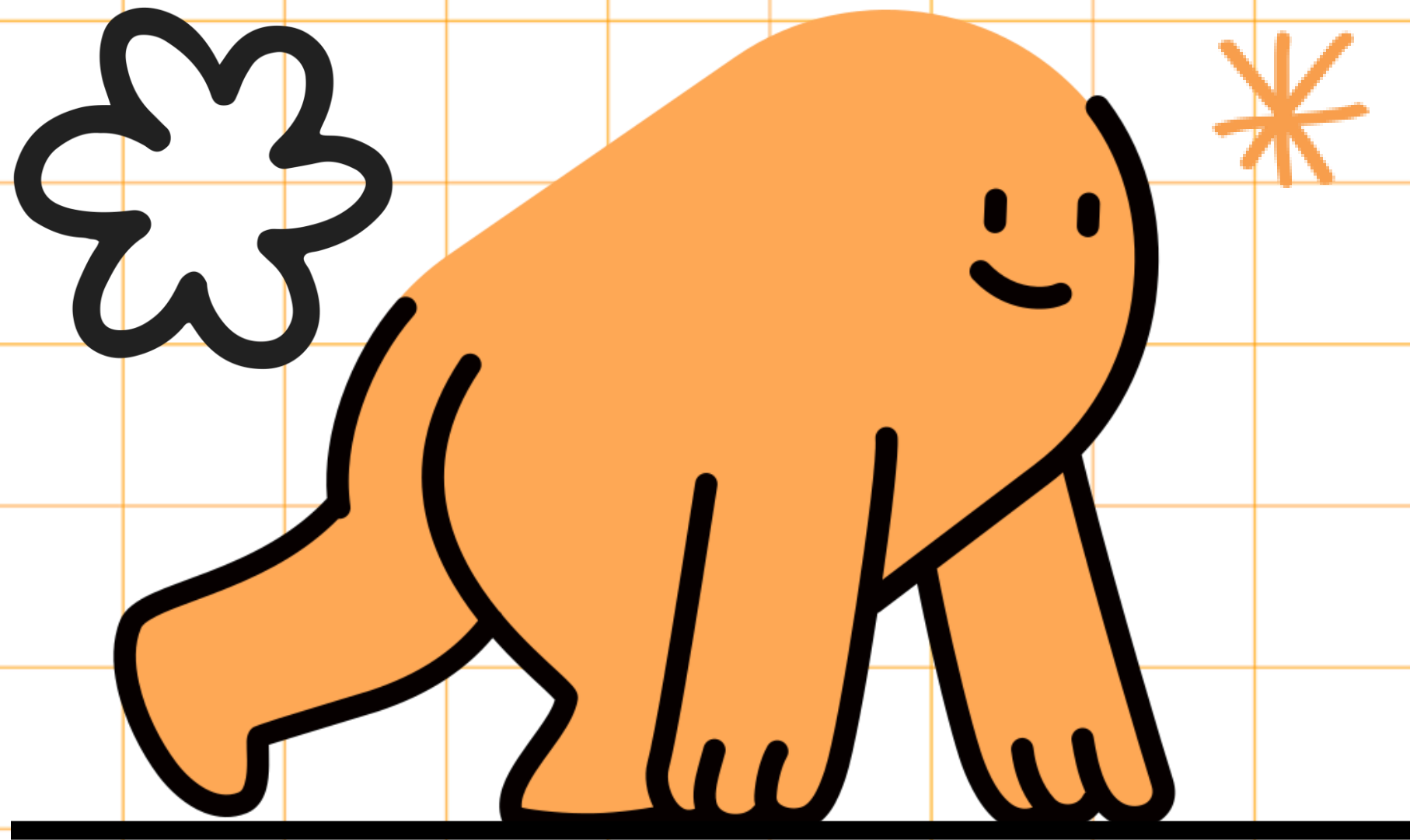
M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy
Licensed clinical professional &
certified school counselor in AZ



*** What brought you
here today? Are you
worried or hopeful?
Are you reflecting on
your own struggles?**



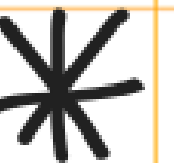
Agenda



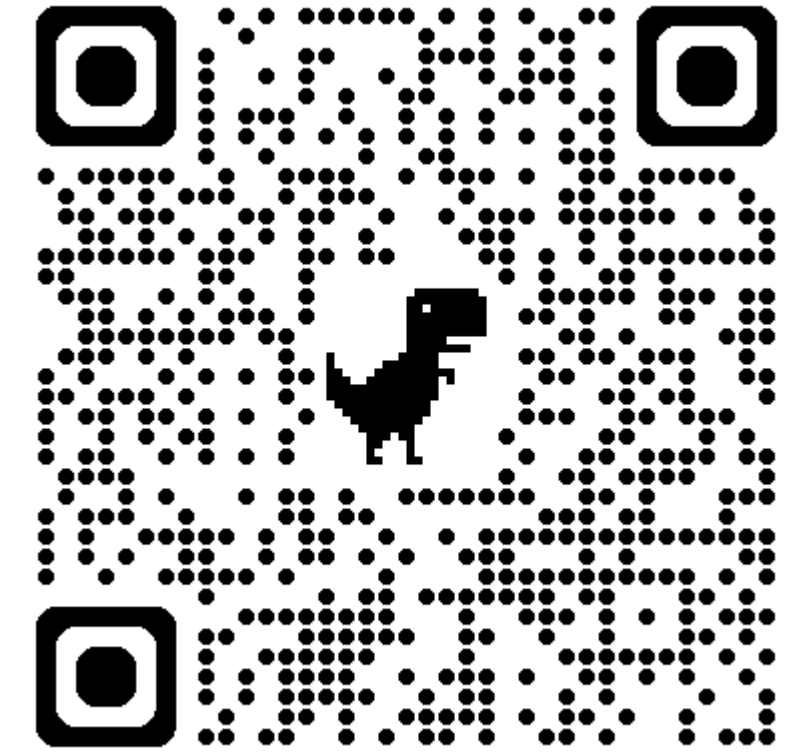
Gifted
Children

Friendship
Challenges

Strategies



Barriers to Gifted Kids



* Finding 'Like Minds'

01 Asynchronous Development

The mismatch between gifted kids' physical, cognitive and emotional development means that they often feel 'odd' and misunderstood amongst their same aged peers (Silverman, 2013).



02 Forced Choice Dilemma

Many gifted kids feel like they need to choose between being smart or being popular. As a result, many kids mask their intelligence with avoidant or defiant behaviour in order to 'fit in' (Jung et al., 2011).



03 Twice Exceptionality

Many seemingly average students are in fact students whose gifts and learning disabilities mask one another. This complexity often means twice- exceptional students don't feel like they belong in either community (Wang & Neihart, 2015).



04 Using gifted kids as the teacher

Gifted students do not make the best academic leaders, because of their ability to learn more quickly and make intuitive leaps in their thinking. They don't always follow the same sequential steps as others when problem solving. They can become impatient with peers (Brulles et al., 2010).



05 Emotional Intensity

Gifted students complex inner world (strong sense of justice, altruism, sensitivity, heightened fears, perfectionism) can often lead to feelings of isolation and being misunderstood (Neihart & Yeo, 2018).



06 One-size-fits-all approach

Gifted students are diverse with varying interests and needs. They need specific programs and provisions designed to meet their needs (Olszewski-Kubilius, 2003).



07 Fear of Judgement

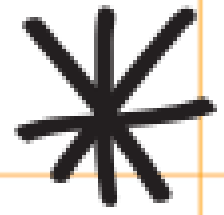
The label of 'gifted' can be taboo and seen as elitist in an egalitarian society. Many families fear judgement for being seen as 'pushy parents'. The reality is that gifted students are more likely to get their needs met in school if their parents advocate for them (Gilman, 2020).





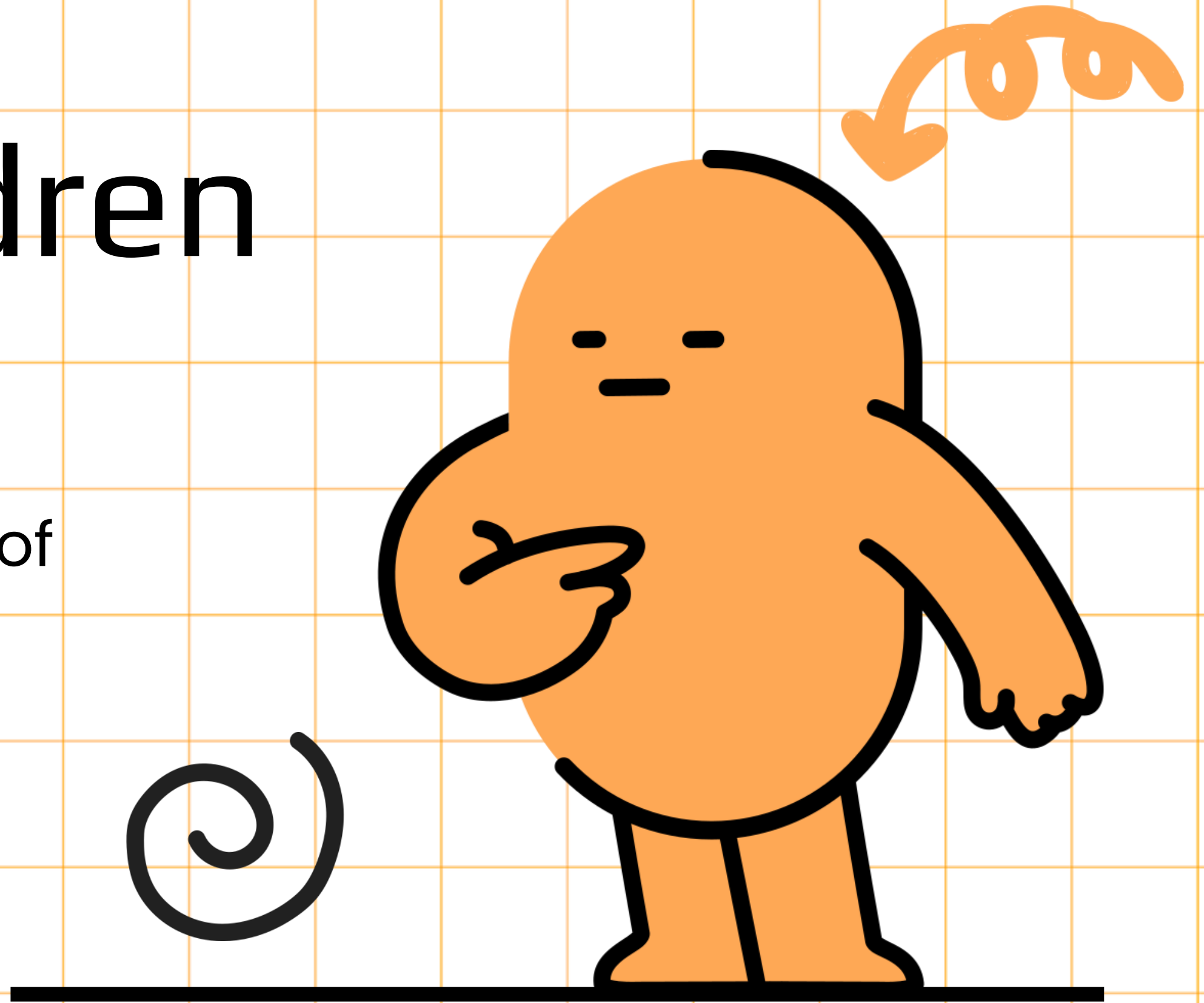
**How are
neurodivergent
friendships different
from others?**



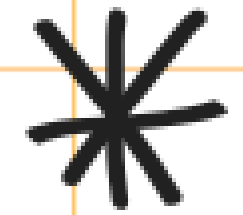


Gifted Children

- Intellectual Ability
- Asynchrony
 - delayed development of executive functioning skills
- Intensity
 - interests
 - emotions *



Intellectual Ability



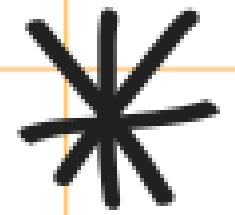
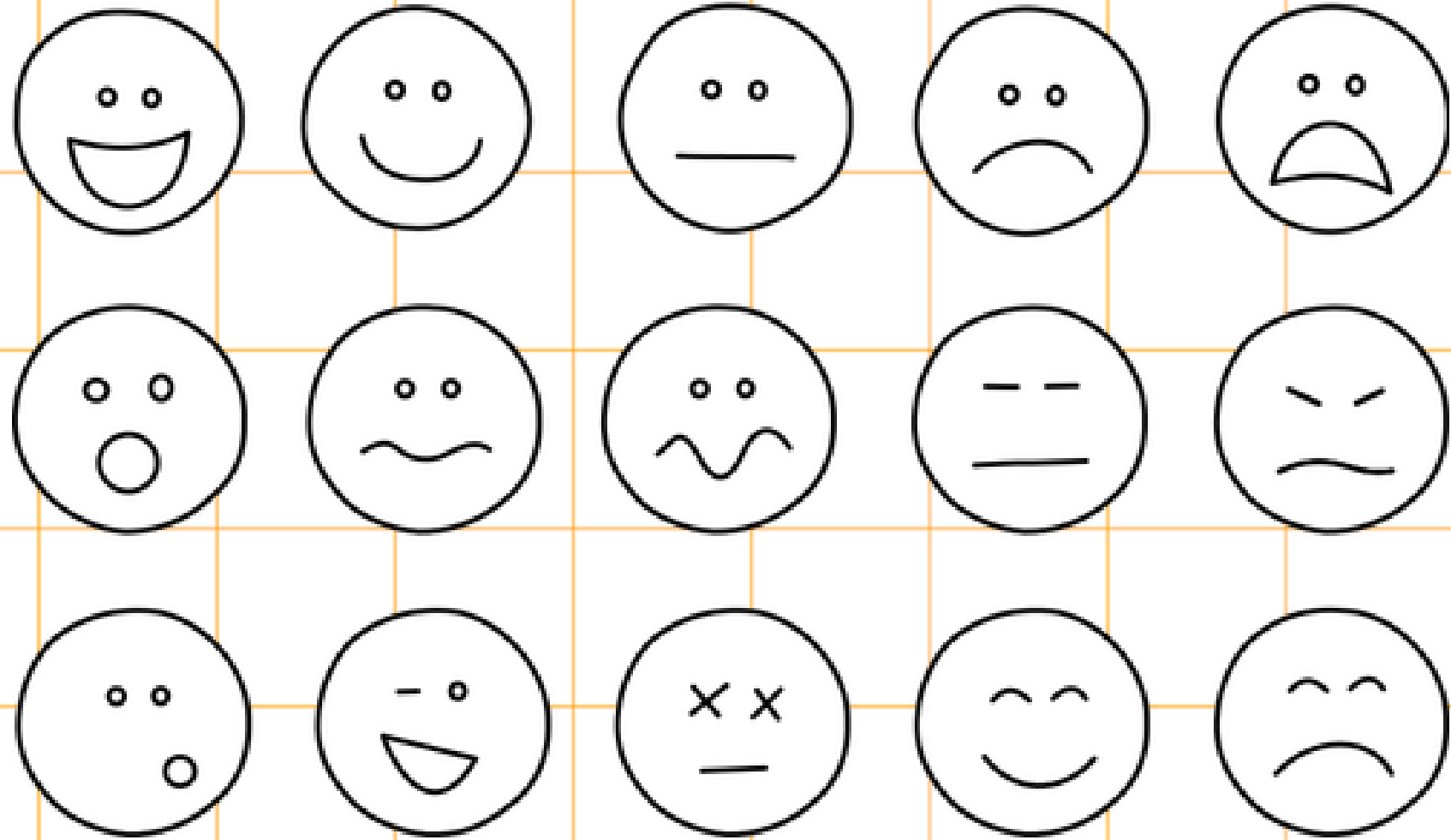
In my friendship study I was able to compare the **friendship conceptions** of children of average intellectual ability, moderately gifted children and children of IQ 160+. The study demonstrated strongly that what children look for in friends is dictated not so much by chronological age as by **mental age**. A strong relationship was found between children's levels of intellectual ability and their conceptions of friendship. In general, intellectually gifted children were found to be substantially further along the hierarchy of stages of friendship than were their age-peers of average ability. **Gifted children were beginning to look for friends with whom they could develop close and trusting relationships, at ages when their age-peers of average ability were looking for play partners.**



<https://www.davidsongifted.org/gifted-blog/tips-for-parents-gifted-childrens-friendships/>

Author: Miraca Gross, Ph.D.

Year: 2006

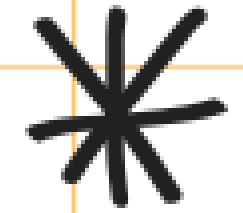


Social Skills

The delayed development of executive functioning skills: social, emotional, organizational can lead to negative social experiences.

Emotional &





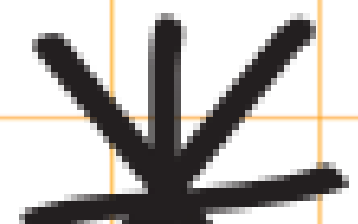
Interests

Intense interests = less willing to compromise during play





**What are some of your
child's stumbling
blocks?**





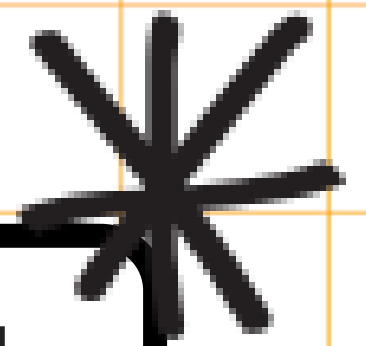
Friendship Challenges

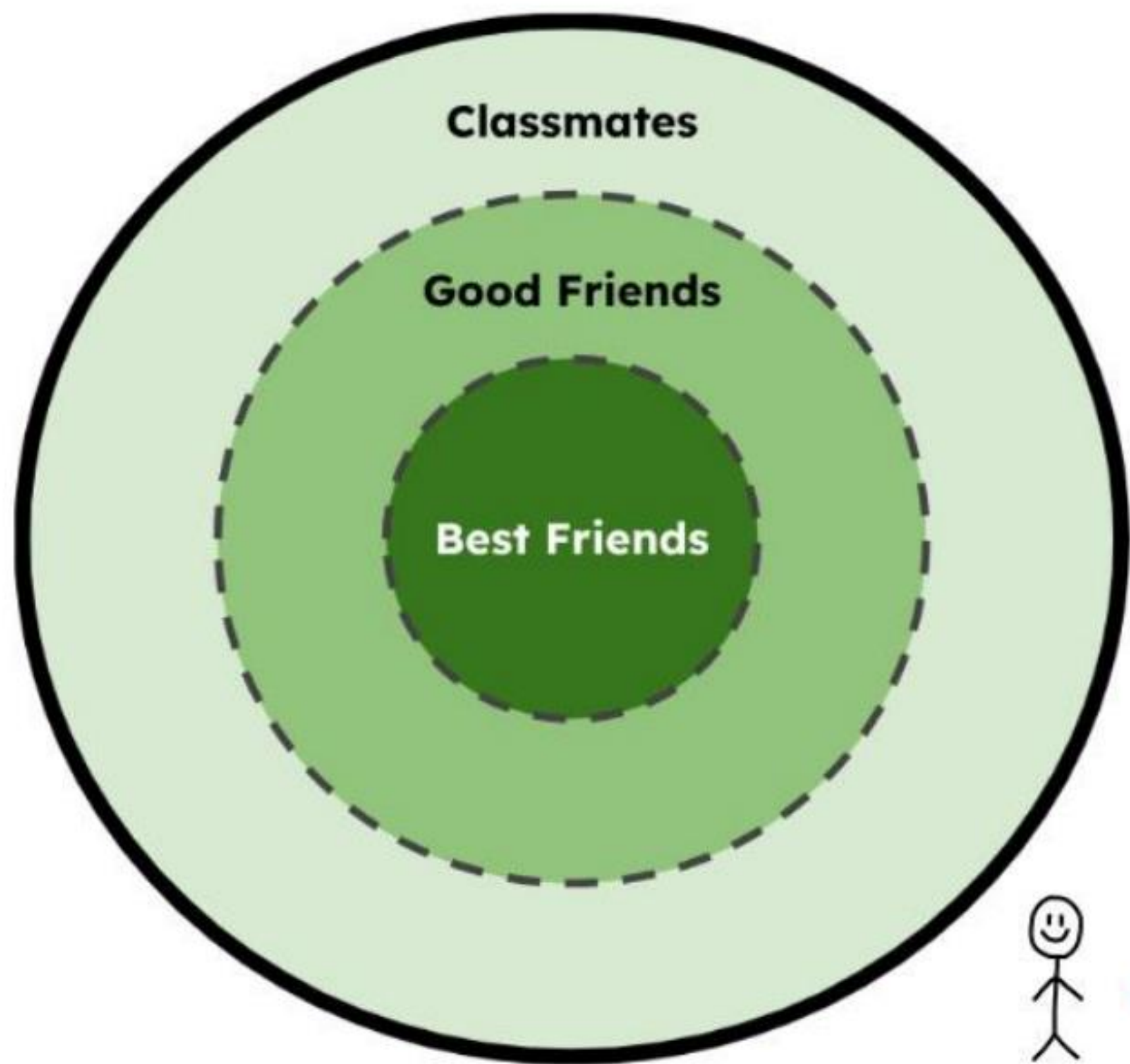
Past
Experience



Self-Confidence

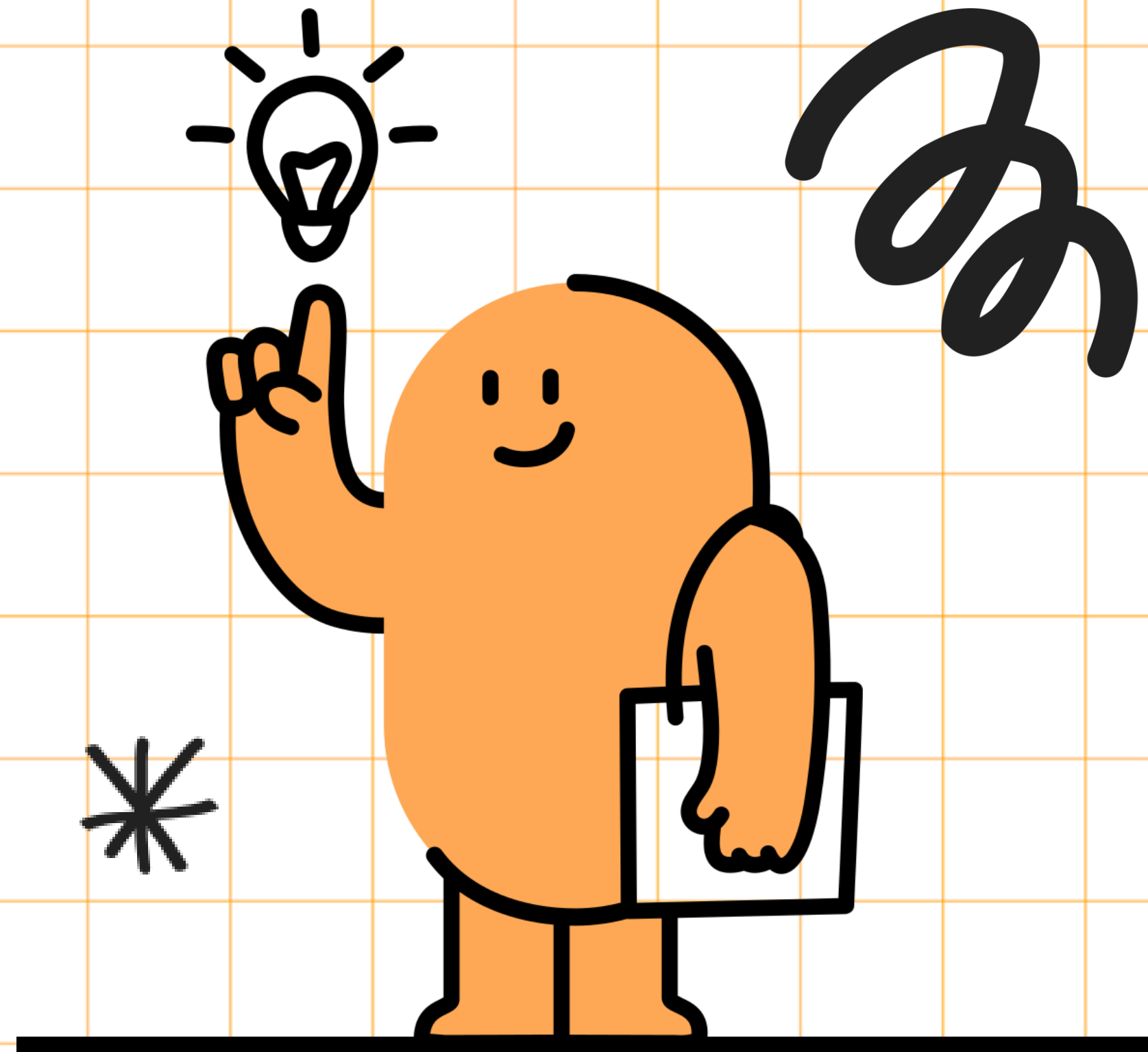
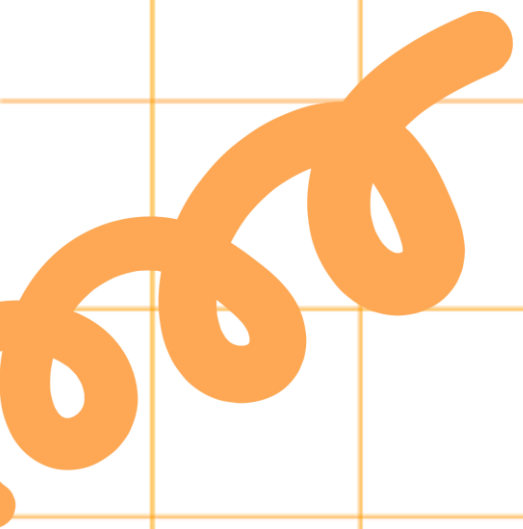
Understanding
the role of a friend





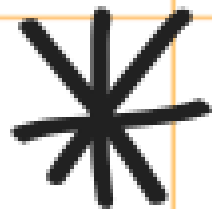
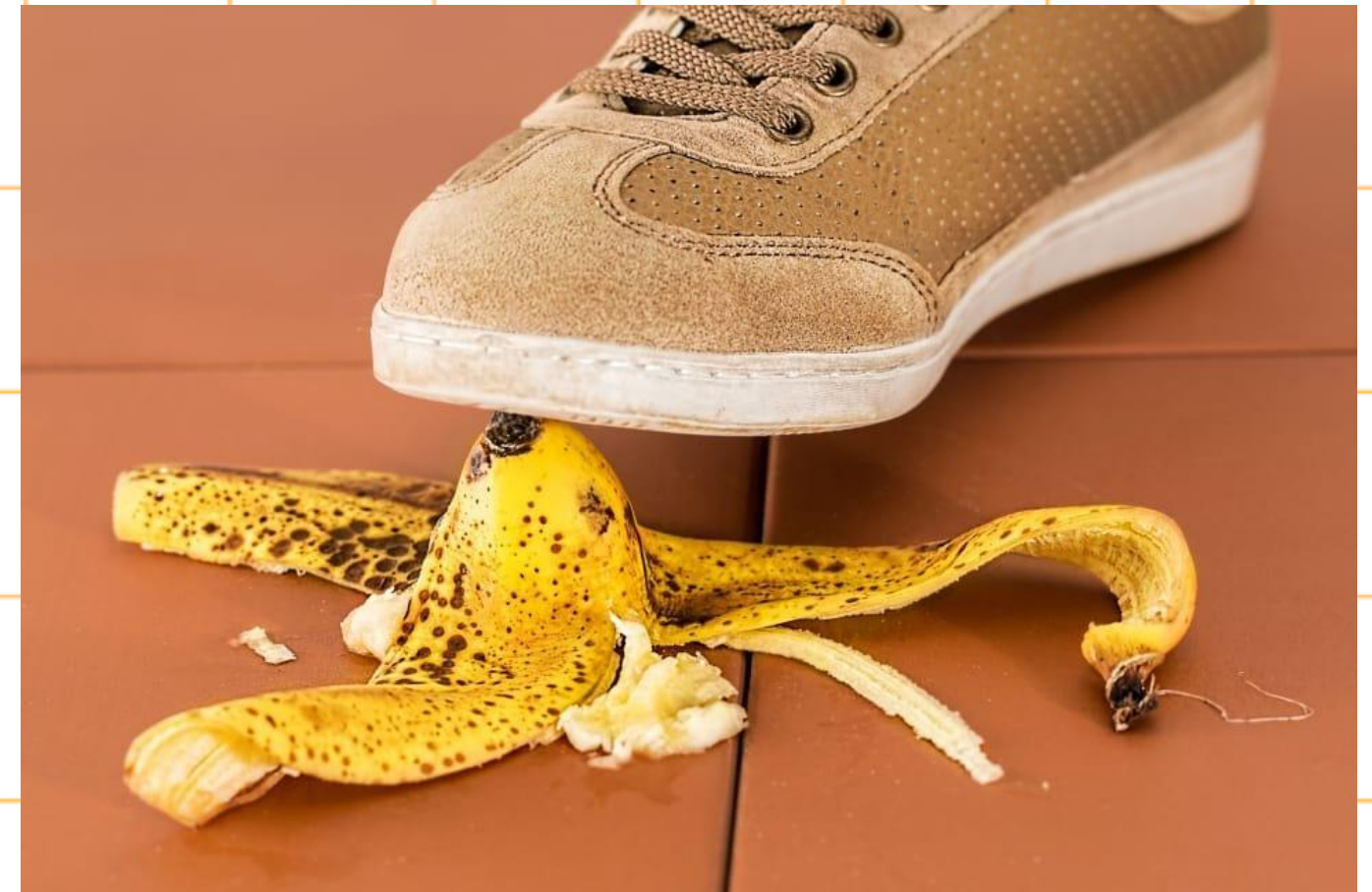
How Can We Help?

Lucky for us - there is a lot we can do!



Parent Pit-Falls

- Don't focus on the missteps
 - catalog wins - no matter how small
- Projecting our own experiences
 - ask kids what they want
- It's OK to help!
 - we can help build the infrastructure
 - organize the opportunities for them, so the executive functioning skills don't stand in their way



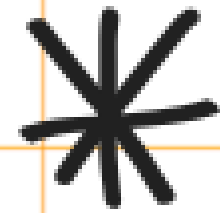
Mindset

- Role-Model
 - what are the different types of friendships you have? *
 - what role do friends play in your life
- Reverse Scarcity Mindset
 - I can't say no to this friend because I don't have any



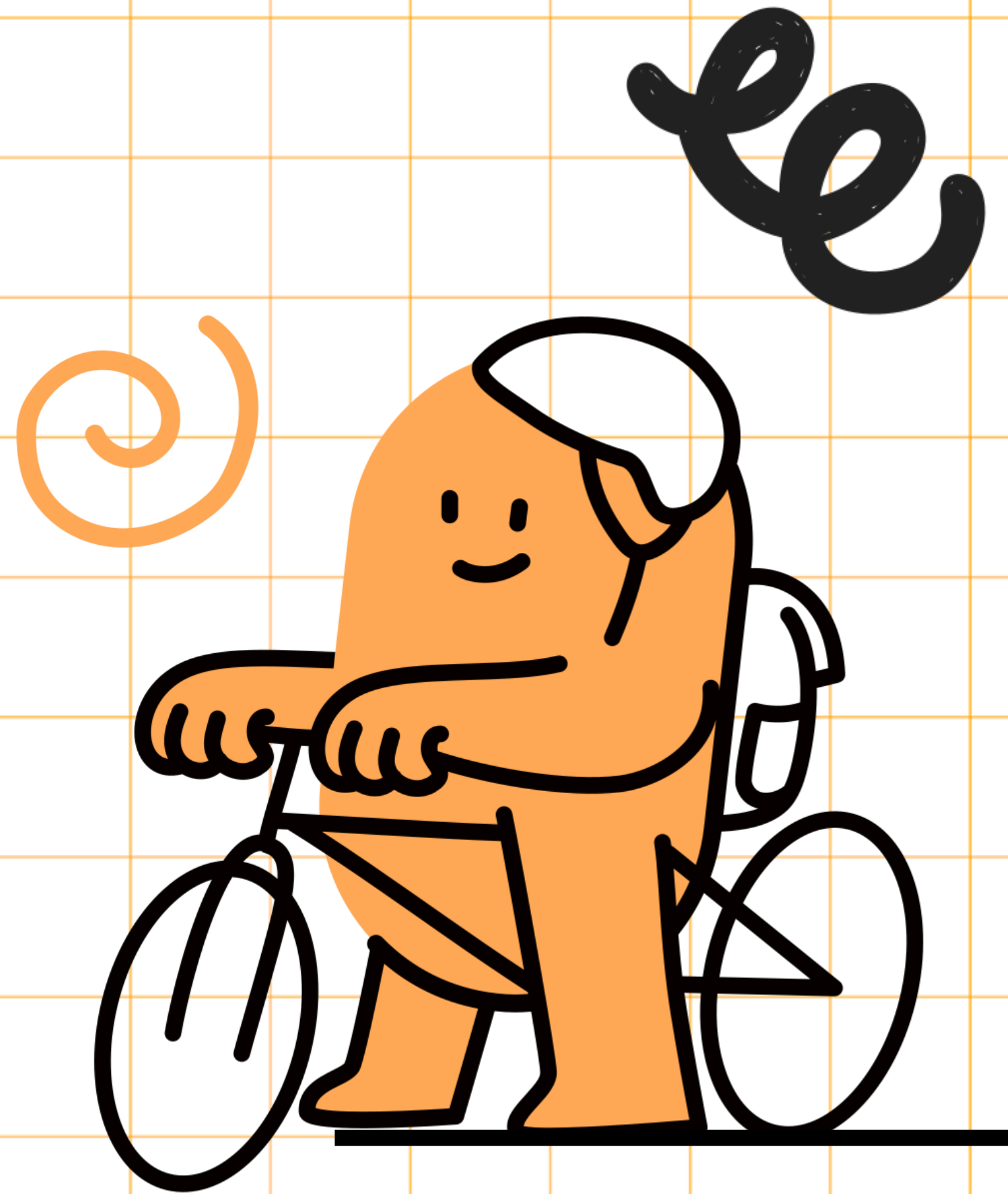
Interests = Super Powers

- Best time to build relationships
- Shared interests lessen anxiety and build self-confidence
- Great time to role model
- Participating in activities or topics of interest give children a sense of well-being, a sense of self



Confidence * is Key

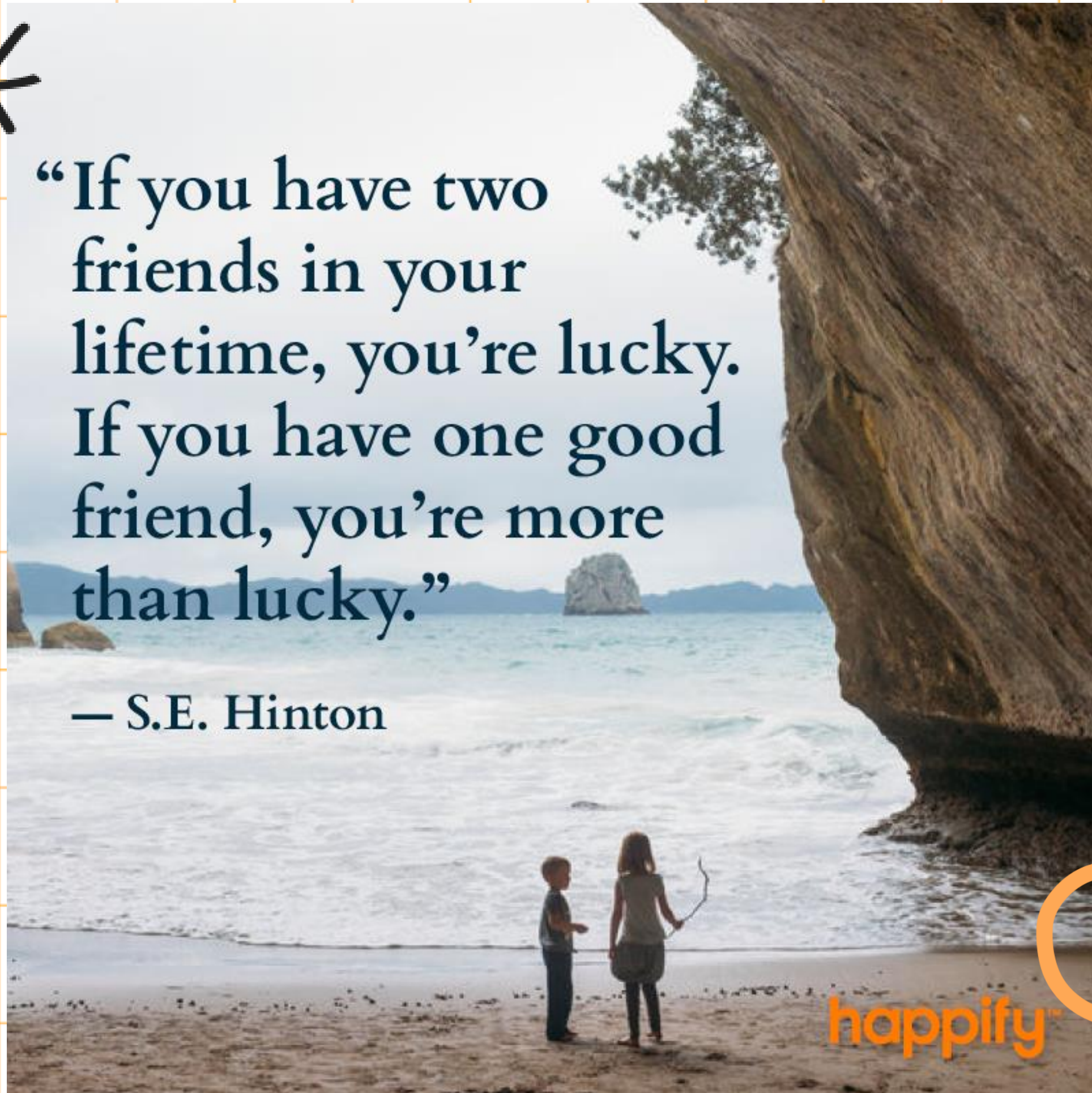
Kids should have the
opportunity to do something
they are good at everyday





“If you have two friends in your lifetime, you’re lucky. If you have one good friend, you’re more than lucky.”

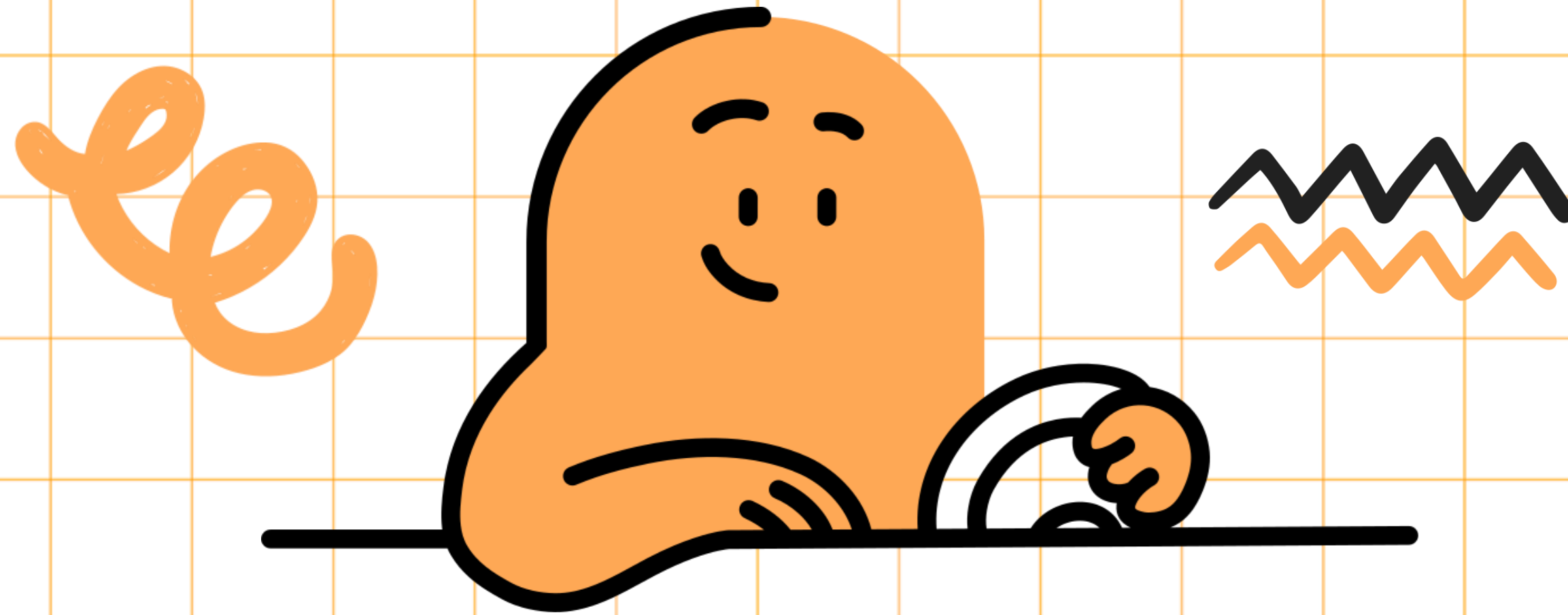
— S.E. Hinton



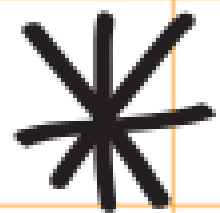


**Where might you
start? What strategy
could help?**





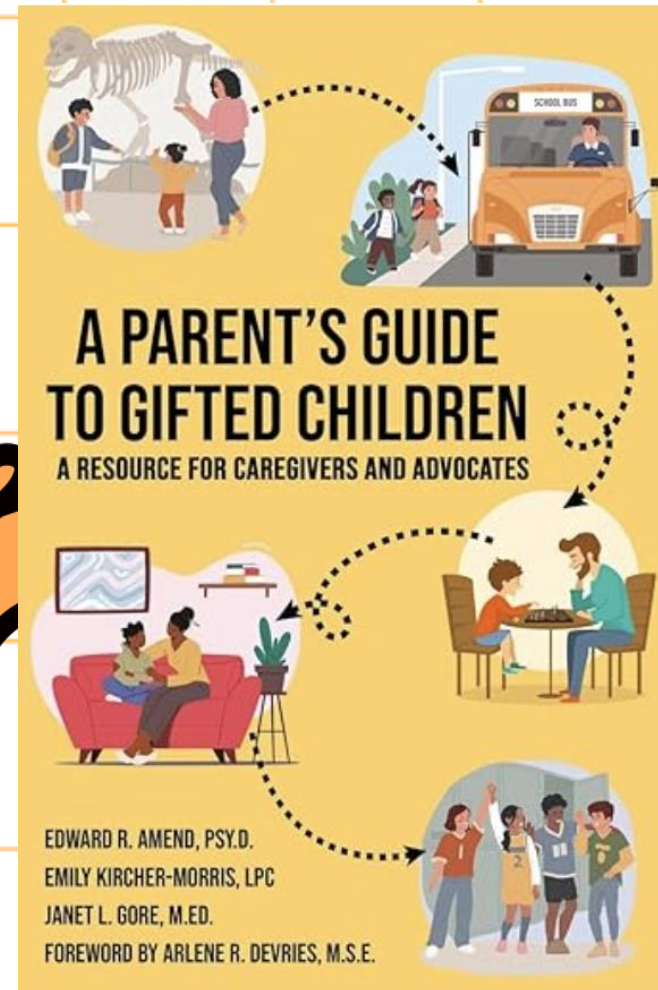
Gifted Children & Friendships



Resources



Please join us for our next parent session:



Gifted Parent Session - Book Study: A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children

January 16, 2025 (Part 1, Chapters 1-6)

February 20, 2025 (Part 2, Chapters 7-12)

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Weinberg Gifted Academy - 5245 S. Val Vista Dr., Gilbert

Join us in a book study of: A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children (2023 edition) By: Edward Amend, Psy.D., Emily Kircher-Morris, M.Ed. LPC, Janet Gore, M.Ed.

We will tackle this book over two sessions. Feel free to attend one or both sessions.

