



# New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education

*Empowering Extraordinary Minds*

Every year, around  
2,900 Kiwi kids are  
lucky to be born  
with extraordinary  
minds and abilities.

Today, just 1.5%  
of them get the  
specialist support  
they need to thrive.

With your help, we can make sure every gifted child in Aotearoa has a chance to reach their full potential.

## “MindPlus has changed Fergus’ world.”

He’s grown in confidence and accepted that his difference is okay. At his other school, he struggles with friendships and fitting in. At MindPlus he has found his clan and made friends who understand him, who challenge him and make him feel accepted.”

**Karen, mum of Fergus who is gifted.**



People often think ‘gifted’ children are simply high achievers or kids with pushy parents. The truth is, ‘gifted’ is a neurological term. It’s used to describe a child whose brain is wired in a particular way, from birth.

If their gifts are nurtured and grown, those children can do extraordinary things. But being different or unusual isn’t easy for kids. Without specialist support, half of our gifted children will underachieve. They may struggle at school or even drop out. They might become disruptive in class. They could feel isolated, or develop anxiety and depression.

## How we help

New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education is the only organisation in New Zealand that provides the specialist support gifted children need to thrive. Through our programmes and dedicated learning spaces, we reach more than 700 gifted children each year.

Over the last 25 years, we’ve helped thousands of gifted kids discover their true potential. We give expert help to their parents and teachers too.

**Every gifted child deserves specialist support, but right now too many are missing out. With your help, we can reach every single one of them.**

## The three steps to supporting gifted children

### Identify

The younger a gifted child starts receiving support, the greater their potential will be. With your help, we'll work with parents to identify their child's gifts from as early as two years of age. Gifted children often feel 'different' from their peers – and hide their gifts to fit in. You can also help us work with teachers and parents to identify those children and unleash their extraordinary abilities.

### Reach

Giftedness doesn't discriminate or take postcodes into account. But girls, rural kids and children from lower socio-economic backgrounds are far less likely to be identified as gifted. Only 9% of the students in our programmes are Māori or Pasifika. You can help broaden our reach, and fund scholarships, so every gifted child has a chance to unlock their true potential – no matter their background or circumstances.

### Nurture

Our programmes give gifted children a safe place to challenge themselves and explore their talents. But that goes far beyond academic learning. With your support, we can also help those children understand that being 'different' isn't wrong. We can grow their self-esteem, teach them how to cope and how to navigate the world with confidence.



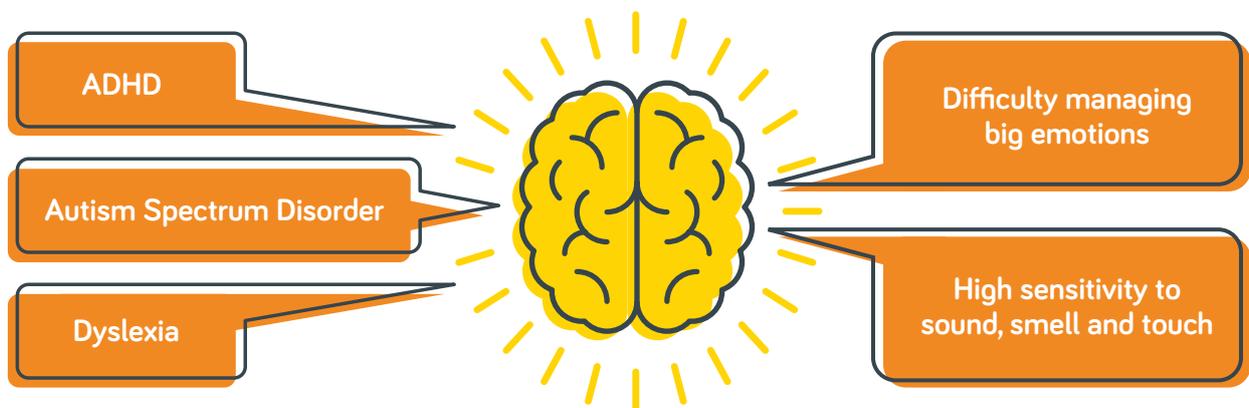
“MindPlus is a place  
I can feel safe  
to express myself  
and be myself.”

The children who come to MindPlus are really nice and thoughtful. I feel like I have more in common with them than I do with kids at school. If I stopped going to MindPlus, I feel like I would be ruined.”

Samuel, aged 9

## The gifted brain

When a child is gifted, their brain is wired differently. They experience the world differently from other people. **30%** of gifted children are ‘neurodiverse’ in other ways too, including:



## Our programmes



### MindPlus PreSchool

A fun and stimulating 3-hour weekly session for children aged 2-6 and their caregivers, led by a teacher who specialises in working with gifted kids.

“ At MindPlus PreSchool I found my tribe - people that understand why I'm tearing my hair out and can suggest strategies to deal with it. Being in a room full of parents, teachers and kids who cherish and 'get' my child is wonderful for both of us - parent of a gifted child. ”



### MindPlus OurSchool

Where gifted children from years 2-8 come together to learn and socialise for one day a week. There are 14 locations across New Zealand.

“ MindPlus OurSchool has been a lifeline for our daughter on both an emotional and educational level. MindPlus provides the supportive environment that our daughter needs to meet like-minded children; a place where she can be herself and extend her learning; a place where other children accept her and the staff 'get her' - parent of a gifted child. ”



### MindPlus YourSchool

Launching in 2022

Gifted children are taught by their own teacher, supported by a MindPlus specialist online.



### MindPlus Online

If a child lives in a rural area, or a place where specialist teaching isn't available, they can join MindPlus classes online.

“ We've found that the mainstream doesn't really cater to kids like Niwa - they just don't have enough time to extend him beyond the basics into things like art and science. We live rurally so being able to access the quality education that MindPlus gives us to supplement his schoolwork has been really really good - Tao, father of Niwa who is gifted. ”



### MindPlus Badges

An online learning programme where gifted children can grow their talents and strengths, in their own time and at their own pace.

“ Finn can explore his own interest, his way, without a defined start and stop. I find primary school is too restrictive and prescriptive and Finn just didn't know his potential until his MindPlus Badges teacher was able to release those limits” - Michelle, mum of Finn who is gifted. ”

To expand these programmes, and make sure every gifted child in Aotearoa has access to them, we urgently need your support.

## Some feedback from our students.

84% of students rate MindPlus as 'high', 'very high' or 'amazing' in terms of helping them meet their learning, social and emotional needs.

89% say that their engagement and motivation for learning at MindPlus is 'high', 'very high' or 'amazing'.

91% see attending the programme as a worth while opportunity.

## A vision for an extraordinary future

With your help, Kiwi kids with extraordinary minds will be able to do extraordinary things. Because they can, because they're supported and because they're believed in.

You can fund a local school to offer the world-class MindPlus YourSchool programme to its own gifted kids and set them up with all the books and educational resources they need to challenge and inspire their students.

You can fund a MindPlus scholarship to make sure more girls, Māori or Pasifika students, and children from disadvantaged backgrounds can be part of our programmes.

You can also help equip our MindPlus OurSchool classrooms with Chromebooks, furniture, learning resources and everything we need to stimulate growing minds.

New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education is the only specialist organisation working with gifted children in Aotearoa. Our programmes change children's lives, unlock their potential and transform their futures.

**We can't do that without your support.  
Will you please help?**