

Mental health professionals who treat and assess gifted clients

Below is a list of mental health professionals who identified themselves as those who work with gifted children and adults. This listing is not intended to be a recommendation or identification of competency

Carefree

Ellen Diamond, Ph.D., PC:

Clinical Psychologist
7171 E. Cave Creek Road, Ste. P
Carefree, AZ 85377
erdphd@aol.com
(480) 488-7876

Chandler

Janet Messer, Ph.D.:

I work with gifted adults and adults who are raising gifted children.

PO Box 8139
Chandler, AZ 85246-8139
480-449-3313
drjanetmesser@yahoo.com

Flagstaff

Michael E. Gerner, Ph.D., P.C.:

Specializing in comprehensive evaluation, differential diagnosis, and consultation for gifted/talented students, twice exceptional (2e) children/adolescents/adults, third culture/internationally mobile, and individuals of special abilities and aptitudes. Areas of expertise include wide-spectrum assessment of learning disabilities and special abilities across the life span, dyslexia, autism spectrum, ADD/ADHD, psychological and psychoeducational evaluations of children, adolescents, adults, community college students, university students, advanced graduate students, medical students, law students, and other professional school students for accommodations in program and on high stakes testing.

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3 N. Leroux St., Ste. 207
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Michelle Dereschuk Gray, Ph.D.:

I work well with gifted individuals, also those who are 2e (twice exceptional). These include those who are gifted and have some other learning issue, ex. ADD/ADHD, Aspergers, Nonverbal LD, other LD.

Licensed Psychologist
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Approved Supervisor AAMFT
1515 N. San Francisco St
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 774-3400

David Jecmen, Ph.D:

Dr. Jecmen's passion for working with gifted persons is rooted in his own experience growing up as a gifted individual and working through educational, social, and emotional challenges. In his work as a psychologist, he has focused on helping children, adolescents, and adults identify, claim, develop, and integrate into their lives their unique gifts and talents. He maintains a therapeutic focus, working with the unique influences giftedness has on an individual's diagnostic assessment, relationship dynamics, emotional self-expression, self-identity, learning process, and way of making meaning out of life experiences. Over the past 15 years, he has developed an expertise in working with the unique influence giftedness has on marriage and family dynamics, parent-child relationships, decision-making, communication, and spirituality.

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Dorothy Jecmen:

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Glendale:

Anne Dorre, Ph.D.:

SunWest Medical Center
5757 West Thunderbird Road, Suite W401
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Telephone: 602-439-0475
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Irwin Grossman, Ph.D.:

(602) 439-0475
SunWest Medical Center
5757 W. Thunderbird Rd., Suite W401
Glendale, AZ 85306

Peoria:

Amy Serin, PhD, PLLC:

Dr. Serin is a native Arizonan who was Valedictorian of Arizona State University in 1996. She specializes in psychological, neuropsychological, and psychoeducational assessment (ages 4-adult). Dr. Serin works with children, adolescents, and adults to address issues related to giftedness such as emotional sensitivities, executive function issues, anxiety and depression, academic issues, and other co-occurring disorders. She believes an empathic, cognitive-behavioral approach works well with gifted individuals of all ages and she also utilizes a strength based approach in treatment. Colleagues in Dr. Serin's office also offer in-home therapeutic services and structuring for executive function issues.

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Specializing in Pediatric Neuropsychology
9784 W. Yearling Rd. B-1580
Peoria, AZ 85383
623.824.5051
neurosyk@hotmail.com

Phoenix

Dan Blackwood:

My practice is limited to diagnostic consultation, and I see gifted people.

Neuropsychology Associates, P.C.
301 E. Bethany Home Road,
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(602) 230-8325
blackwood@neuropsychology-az.com

Rosemary Callard-Szulgit Ed.D.:

Dr. Callard-Szulgit has 36 years of working experience with gifted children in the classroom. She is a proactive leader of parents and supports the rights of all children, including the cognitively gifted. An Associate Professor at SUNY College at Brockport, Dr. Callard-Szulgit is the author of *Parenting and Teaching the Gifted* and *Perfectionism and Gifted Children*, and more. She is available for child and parent counseling.

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480-460-0413

Jane Caplan, MD:

Dr. Caplan recently moved to Phoenix, AZ from Boston, MA where she completed her Adult Psychiatry as well as a specialty in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School Residency Training Programs. Dr. Caplan provides comprehensive evaluations for psychiatric diagnoses as well as treatment in the form of both psychopharmacological management and psychotherapy. She has treated a wide range

of both children and adults who are gifted in her private practice in Phoenix and formerly at McLean hospital and Milton Boarding school in MA, and can help distinguish between a psychiatric diagnosis vs. traits of giftedness.

10214 N. Tatum Blvd, Suite A-1200
Phoenix, AZ 85028

Janet Chao, Ed.D.:

Dr. Chao is a psychologist in private practice that specializes in assessment and treatment of children. Her practice includes evaluation of gifted, twice exceptional, and children who have complex presentations due to multiple challenges.

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480-443-0050
janet.chao@melmedcenter.com

Gina De Simone, Psy.D.:

Dr. De Simone is a clinical psychologist in private practice that specializes in assessment and treatment of children. Her practice includes evaluation of gifted and twice exceptional as well as treatment of a wide variety of challenges through individual and family therapy for children and adolescents.

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Lisa Donsker, MC, LPC:

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor providing psychotherapeutic services to children, adolescents and parents, including specialized services for those who have been identified as academically precocious and/or gifted. I frequently work with gifted students who suffer from anxiety and depression, as well as those who have encountered bullying in their school environment. I regularly conduct psychoeducational empowerment groups for gifted children and adolescents (SMART GIRLS Group / SMART BOYS Group), as well as organizational / executive functioning groups for children and adolescents (EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING Group).

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Paula L. King, Ph.D:

(602) 957-2368
(children 12+, families)
5070 N. 40th Street, Suite 220
Phoenix, AZ 85018

Sandra MacDonald Graff, Ed.D:

(602) 956-0082
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Phoenix, AZ 85016

Sue Milano, M.Ed:

Sue Milano is the director of Special Education at a local charter school, a teacher, and an advocate for children of all abilities. With 20 years experience and a Master's degree in Special Education, Sue has worked as an administrator, teacher, and inclusion specialist. She has developed and implemented hundreds of IEPs and 504 plans, as well as the classroom accommodations that accompany those plans. Sue is a teacher educator; responsible for training teachers, administrators, and support staff on the diverse needs of students with differing abilities. She possesses the acute awareness of what students need to be successful and can share that knowledge with families to empower them to make informed choices for their children.

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sue@beyondthetutor.com
602.697.4887

Joel S. Hanania, Ph.D:

Joel tests and identifies all ages from very young children to adults but I provide treatment for children and adolescents only.

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D. Scott Herrmann, Ph.D.

I am a licensed psychologist, national certified counselor, and have completed specialized postdoctoral fellowship training in clinical child psychology at Tripler Army Medical Center (APA accredited). I conduct comprehensive psycho educational evaluations for the identification of giftedness in both children and adolescents, and provide counseling / psychotherapeutic services for gifted children and adolescents having difficulty navigating the social challenges of their lives. I am particularly interested in twice exceptional youth who have been identified as both ADHD and gifted, and therapeutic interventions aimed at helping these youth maximize their potential (including chess game play and strategy as a therapeutic modality to cultivate attention / focus, patience, sequential planning and cognitive shift abilities). I also provide coaching and counseling services to parents raising gifted children, and regularly conduct a psycho educational group for parents entitled "Parenting Tools That Work."

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Martin E. Keller PhD

Dr. Martin Keller provides counseling and psychotherapy services to gifted children and adults. He has an interest in the emotional and social aspects of giftedness. In particular, he focuses on anxiety, depression and relationship issues. Dr. Keller is a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. Dr. Keller is also a certified school psychologist and is available to attend staffing with teachers and school personnel.

Martin E. Keller, Ed .D. ABPP
Diplomate in Clinical Psychology
11020 N. Tatum Blvd.
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602 996 8619 ext. 104

Kari Kling, M.Ed.:

Kari Kling has spent most of her life in the role of "teacher." She knew from the age of five that she would be an educator, and her passion and enthusiasm for learning, and teaching others to reach their highest potential, has never wavered.

Kari's passion for and deep understanding of how the human brain learns is contagious! Drawing on her nearly 30 years as a classroom teacher, national education consultant, and author, Kari possesses a wealth of expertise about how children learn, and enjoys sharing it with others.

For the past four years Kari has devoted herself to her family, and as a parent she has gained an even broader perspective of how her knowledge and experience can support families academically, socially, and cognitively. From observing how her own children learn, Kari has seen brain research in action and would like to help other families use this same knowledge to help their own children.

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kari@karikling.com
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Gary M. Prince MD:

Dr. Prince is a licensed psychiatrist. Medical School: Dr. Prince is ABMS Board Certified in both a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychiatry.

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Scottsdale, AZ
300 W Clarendon Ave Ste 140
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602-274-1005

Otto Siegel:

We partner with high potential children and their parents to create a family culture that supports unique strengths in every family member. Our Genius Profile measures these unique abilities and qualities and provides a solid foundation and direction for individual development inside and outside the school system. Our strong emphasis on unique strengths development causes 'weaknesses' like ADHD, Dyslexia or social behavior challenges to disappear. Once your child finds direction, purpose and joy in every-day life, alarming signals like boredom, confusion or distractions are no longer needed to call for attention.

Genius Coaching
www.geniuscoaching.com
602.238.4527
3233 W. Peoria Ave. Suite 100 (close to I-17)
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Sia Sipsas-Herrmann, Ph.D.

I am a licensed psychologist as well as a certified school psychologist. My focus in this area is on assessment of children, ages 4-16. I provide evaluations for identification of gifted children and adolescents as well as comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations for identification of possible comorbid learning disabilities. Given my involvement in the schools, I am able to advise families on issues related to gifted education and services for the twice-exceptional learner.

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Livia Steingart Spitz:

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misteingart@yahoo.com

Tara Welker PhD

Clinical psychologist offering giftedness testing, and assessment of learning disabilities and diagnostic concerns for twice exceptional children. She also provides ongoing treatment for children and families who need support to address social-emotional issues.

830 N. 6th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85018
602-568-4618

Julie Weston, Ph.D.

Dr. Weston is a clinical child psychologist in private practice that specializes in assessment and treatment of children. Her practice includes evaluation of gifted and twice exceptional as well as treatment of emotional, behavioral and learning difficulties as they present in children and adolescents.

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Prescott:

Dan Blackwood:

My practice is limited to diagnostic consultation, and I see gifted people.

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(928) 777-2477
blackwood@neuropsychology-az.com

Scottsdale:

Robin Asaki

Robin is qualified to administer the Cognitive Abilities Test with results being accepted by AZ school districts.

Scottsdale AZ
480-451-1512

Paul Beljan, Ph.D.:

Dr. Paul Beljan is pediatric neuropsychologist who has a subspecialty in gifted intelligence. Beljan Psychological Services specializes in assessing and advocating for gifted children, and gifted children with ADHD, asynchronous development or who have learning disorders. Beljan Psychological Services particularly focuses on ruling out erroneous misdiagnoses that commonly occur in the gifted population. Dr. Beljan is the co-author of Mis-diagnosis and Dual-diagnosis of Gifted Children and Adults. Dr. Beljan was trained in giftedness by Dr. James Webb who is a nationally recognized pioneer on the topic.

Paul Beljan, PsyD, ABPdN, ABPN
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http://www.abpdn.org/
http://bookflash.com/media_kit/great_potential/Misdiagnosis/Paul

Dr. Kathrine Cornella:

18849 N. 93rd Street
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(602) 585-4398

Drake D. Duane MD (Neurology, Psychiatry) –

Performs 1-day comprehensive evaluation" Understands the biology of the child before taking action with medicine.

10210 N 92nd St Ste 300
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480-860-1222

Gloria M. Cochran, Ph.D.:

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Laura Falduto:

Center for Psychological Well-Being
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Scottsdale, AZ 85251-3620
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Joanne W. Gallagher, Ph.D.:

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(counseling only)
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Shel Gandhi, Psy.D.:

I am in a private practice conducting both assessment and treatment with gifted, exceptional, twice-exceptional, and high-intensity children and adolescents. I also treat gifted adults who continue to experience social/relational challenges. Currently, I am also on a dissertation committee for a student who is writing her doctoral research project on gifted children who have social skills and relationship challenges. Additionally, I trained and then worked in the public school system for a couple of years where part of

my responsibilities involved treating gifted and high-intensity children with social/relational issues. I also teach for Argosy University in the School Psychology Program as Adjunct faculty and incorporate information on this population in my Child and Adolescent Psychopathology class.

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Abby Garcia PhD:

Abby Garcia, Ph.D. is a local therapist who specializes in working with gifted children, adolescents, and families. She is trained under the direction of Barbara Kerr, Ph.D. who is internationally renowned for her expertise in giftedness and talent development. In her efforts to meet the psychosocial needs of the gifted and talented community, Dr. Garcia provides assessment, counseling, and support services for students and their families in the areas of: Social Skills, Communication Skills, Empathy Training, Assertion and Anger Management, Anxiety and Stress, Depression, and Adjustment and Coping. She brings a unique perspective to her therapy that grew from her combined experiences of parenting gifted children and from teaching diverse students from elementary to university levels in both local and international settings. She has presented her research on giftedness and talent to local and national educational and corporate audiences.

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480-609-2855

Theresa Gates, Ph.D., P.C:

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8075 E. Morgan Trail, Suite 1-B
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Gloria Gilbert, Ph.D.:

Dr. Gilbert is an Arizona licensed psychologist, a certified school psychologist, and a certified EMDR therapist who specializes in working with children and adolescents, ages 4 – 18 years of age. The issues that Dr. Gilbert addresses with her child and teen clients are as follows: the assessment and treatment of individuals who are gifted, anxiety, depression, divorce adjustment, family/parenting issues, sexual abuse and trauma recovery, attachment issues, grief/loss, low self-esteem, social skills/friendship problems, school issues, and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Dr. Gilbert is committed to establishing a comfortable environment in which children and teens view counseling as a positive experience.

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EMDR Certified Therapist
Psychological Counseling Services
7530 East Angus Drive

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Aimee Goldstein, Ph.D.:

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Phoenix, AZ 85028
480-278-2953

Marci Harris, Ph.D:

I still do some testing and gifted is one category. I have worked with gifted children and their families and I work with adults in general.

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Scottsdale, AZ 85250-7801
(480) 948-0119
mwharrisphd@hotmail.com

David J. Jecmen, Ph.D.:

Dr. Jecmen's passion for working with gifted persons is rooted in his own experience growing up as a gifted individual and working through educational, social, and emotional challenges. In his work as a psychologist, he has focused on helping children, adolescents, and adults identify, claim, develop, and integrate into their lives their unique gifts and talents. He maintains a therapeutic focus, working with the unique influences giftedness has on an individual's diagnostic assessment, relationship dynamics, emotional self-expression, self-identity, learning process, and way of making meaning out of life experiences. Over the past 15 years, he has developed an expertise in working with the unique influence giftedness has on marriage and family dynamics, parent-child relationships, decision-making, communication, and spirituality.

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Dorothy Jecmen:

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(480)306-5771

Christina Lebovitz, Ph.D.:

Clinical Psychologist offering private testing (intelligence, academic, etc.) for all ages which can be used to demonstrate giftedness as an alternative to school testing.

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Suite 113
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
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cklebovitz@hotmail.com

Jill McCollum MA

Developmental Specialist. Jill does both IQ and disability testing.

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Sean McDevitt Ph.D.:

Dr. McDevitt understands the pitfalls and peaks of giftedness, and is quite attentive to ensuring that the child is healthy.

Arizona Behavioral Health
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602-997-6635
smcd@b-di.com

Carol Mellen, Ph.D.:

4300 N. Miller Road
Suite B144
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(480) 994-3601

Raun Melmed M.D.:

The Melmed Center provides team support, assessment and treatment services to children and adults with developmental, behavioral and learning challenges. The Melmed Center has a great reputation for children with problems and IQ testing.

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Scottsdale, AZ 85254
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Christopher J. Nicholls, Ph.D.:

Dr. Nicholls is a Clinical Psychologist with over 30 years of experience in working with both children and adults. He is currently in private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he focuses upon the evaluation and treatment of gifted children, neurodevelopmental disorders (including learning disabilities, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and intellectual/developmental disorders), and other conditions that involve the developing brain. Dr. Nicholls is a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and the American Board of Pediatric Neuropsychology. He has served on the clinical faculties of several major university and hospital training programs in psychology, pediatrics, surgery and other health specialties. He is currently the President-Elect of the Arizona Psychological Association, President of the Arizona Neuropsychological Society, and was awarded the 2005 Distinguished Service Award by AZPA. He has a long history of community service, and has authored several articles, co-authored a book, and has presented at local, national and international conferences. For additional information, please visit Dr. Nicholls' web site: drchrisnicholls.com.

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Sue Powers:

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Dr. Marc Schwartz, D.O. P.C.:

Dr. Schwartz is a psychiatrist trained in General Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry/Psychosomatic Medicine. After completing his medical school training at The New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York he moved on to complete his internship at Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College. Dr. Schwartz then completed both his General Psychiatry Residency and Fellowship training in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry/Psychosomatic Medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital, Yale University School of Medicine, where he was Chief Resident of the Consultation-Liaison Service. After completion of his training at Yale, Dr. Schwartz then went on to complete his Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at Schneider Children's Hospital-Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York. Dr. Schwartz work with children, adolescents, and adults in the treatment of all psychiatric disorders. He provides both medication management and psychotherapy.

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Carolyn Settle:

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Sanford J. Silverman, Ph.D.:

I do assessment and treatment for gifted individuals including children and adults. I do Brain Mapping, EEG Neurofeedback and other forms of biofeedback (e.g. Interactive Metronome) for the gifted and various other populations including ADD, OCD, learning disorders, anxiety, depression, Autism, Asperger's and closed-head injuries. I have tested for gifted placements as a school psychologist and in private practice for over twenty years.

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Licensed Psychologist
10229 N. 92nd St., Suite 101
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email: info@centerforadd-az.com

My office hours are: Monday through Friday from 8:00AM –7:00PM (later evening hours are available) and Saturday from 8:00AM-6:00PM

Ingrid Sutton, LCSW, MA:

Ingrid Sutton is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice treating adolescent, young adult and adult clients. Ingrid is also a clinical learning specialist, who has worked extensively with gifted adolescents and young adults with mild to moderate learning difficulties in identification, educational intervention and placement decisions, and advocacy. Her work combines her knowledge of learning difficulties in gifted and talented individuals with her clinical understanding of the characteristic social/emotional challenges that accompany this type of diagnosis. Ingrid has worked with individuals, family members, and has facilitated groups with adolescents and adults to develop a greater insight, awareness and understanding of how their learning style impacts their life, their school and their work.

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Tempe

Robbie Adler-Tapia:

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Sandy Cohen:

Dr. Cohn is a Professor at ASU. He works exclusively with gifted children and their families. He is qualified to administer many different kinds of tests including tests required by school districts for gifted identification and IQ tests. He is especially adept at assessing young children and highly or profoundly gifted children. He provides educational planning and counseling as well as individual therapy. He does not do neuropsychological testing for learning disabilities. Dr. Cohn was the founder of the Center for Academic Precocity at ASU and co-authored the book *Smart Boys*.

480-820-7850
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Kim Gregson, Psy.D.:

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414 S. Mill Avenue, Suite 210
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Colleen Kelly-Peck, M.C., LPC

Colleen Kelly-Peck is a mental health therapist with over 25 years of experience with children and families. She provides individual and family counseling as well as biofeedback for anxiety and other disorders.

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Janet R. Messer, Ph.D.:

(480) 449-3313
(teens and gifted adults)
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Richard Peck, M.Ed., LPC:

Richard Peck has over 25 years of experience providing counseling for children and families as well as parent training. His specialties include depression, oppositional defiant disorder, ADHD, and Asperger's Disorder.

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Michael J. Redivo, Ph.D.

Dr. Redivo provides treatment (individual and family therapy) for gifted children and teens.

10752 N. 89th Place, Suite 221
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480-231-2663

Loretta P. Van der Plas, Ph.D.

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Elizabeth Ventura-Cook, Ph.D.

9414 E. San Salvador Drive, Suite 222
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
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Tucson

Thomas M Brunner, Ph.D.:

Dr Brunner is a consulting and clinical psychologist who has specialized skills in the following: a) evidence based treatment (i.e., therapy) across the lifespan, b) general clinical and psychoeducational assessment for children and adults, c) consultation for educational, medical, and legal professionals regarding clinical and developmental issues, and d) family and child/adolescent treatment. Dr. Brunner has both a clinical and school psychology background, and regularly assesses gifted children by providing thorough recommendations to maximize success in school and life.

Dr. Brunner has served as an expert witness regarding developmental issues, and has unique training relating to the assessment of developmental/clinical issues, especially as they present in young people. Dr. Brunner also conducts ongoing research in areas such as assessment of anger in children and adolescents.

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James Webb:

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Educators:

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