

## **ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING?**

**Cramer, D.**, *Thinking Ahead Extension Workshops, Perth, Western Australia*

While relatively few teachers have yet had formal training in giftedness, the numbers who have had some exposure as a result of various initiatives in recent years is increasing, bringing with it some new challenges. While the familiarity of educators with words like differentiation, extension, enrichment and even 'gifted' might seem reassuring initially, parents and professionals advocating for gifted children may find that while we are all using the same words, we may actually be talking about different things. The challenge then is to ensure consistency as we are all (hopefully) working towards the same goal.

Drawing on my experience as a consultant to over 80 families and a number of schools in the last 2 years, this session will look at some of the interpretations teachers and advocates may have for the same terms and the confusion and frustration that can result if we aren't actually talking about the same thing. Some suggestions as to how we can avoid the pitfalls will also be offered. This session will be of interest to both parents and educators – after all we have the same goal in mind – working towards the best possible environment for gifted children.