

# Linda Silverman is back!

**Famed US gifted education guru returns**

**One day only!**

**Friday 19 June**

Linda & our director, **Rosemary Cathcart**, join forces to present a day of fascinating workshops!

Linda Silverman's wisdom and unique insights into gifted children are renowned throughout the world. On her last visit to New Zealand, she introduced us to visual-spatial learners. This time she's back for the SPELD conference, with just one spare day in hand. We're absolutely delighted that she's agreed to use that day to share more of her knowledge with us, on two crucial and often little-understood topics. Here's what she'll be talking about:

## **[1] THE UNIQUE INNER LIVES OF GIFTED CHILDREN**

Intricate thought processes and complex emotions are held in delicate balance in the gifted individual. Idealism, self-doubt, perceptiveness, excruciating sensitivity, moral imperatives, desperate needs for understanding, acceptance, love—all impinge simultaneously. Gifted children develop more asynchronously than others, and often feel unable to relate to age-mates. When they are forced into a mould that doesn't fit, they begin to experience their differences as deficits. All who interact with them must understand their characteristics and overexcitabilities. Then they can learn to appreciate themselves and develop their own unique paths. We will explore the emotional needs and social realities of gifted children and discuss ways to nurture their full development.

## **[2] RECLAIMING LOST GIFTEDNESS IN GIRLS?**

What happens to gifted girls? There are an equal number of gifted boys and girls—even in the upper regions of giftedness—beyond 180 IQ. But girls begin to go underground as soon as they are placed in preschool. Myra Sadker wrote, "*Girls are the only group who begin school scoring ahead and leave behind, a theft occurring so quietly that most people are unaware of its impact.*" Why do gifted girls hide? What can be done about it? It is essential for teachers and parents to work collaboratively to identify and nurture hidden gifted girls. What does this involve? How can educators and parents help each other in this task? In an environment where it is safe to be different, gifted girls will begin to blossom. But how do we make a "safe" environment for the gifted girl?

And then:

## **[3] BRING YOUR QUESTIONS!**

Immediately after lunch, Linda and Rosemary lead a Q&A discussion session, responding to your questions on any aspect of understanding and working with gifted learners.

Finally, for the last section of the day, Rosemary presents a workshop on a subject that often causes headaches for teachers:

#### **[4] GETTING GIFTED BOYS TO WRITE!**

How often have you heard it? One of the commonest cries from the teachers of gifted boys – great ideas, won't write them down, *hates* writing, never finishes, his book looks like he ate his breakfast on it! When so many of the world's most famous writers are men, why is it that so many gifted boys shy away from writing like a dog from a bath? This workshop suggests some thought-provoking reasons, and then focusses on tackling the problem with a range of high-interest strategies to get boys writing before they even notice what they're doing...

PS: These strategies work with other reluctant writers too!

**WHEN?** 9.30 – 4.00, Friday 19 June

**WHERE?** The Rough Habits Lounge (named after a horse, we are assured!), Taranaki Racing Club, Pukekura Raceway, off Rogan Rd, New Plymouth.

**COST?** \$195 + GST (includes morning and afternoon tea and catered lunch)

**HOW TO BOOK:** Email [reacheducation@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reacheducation@xtra.co.nz). Please include a contact phone number. Please state any special dietary requirements so we can be sure you are properly catered for.

**CLOSING DATE:** Bookings must be received at the latest by 10 am Wednesday 17 June. Bookings may close earlier if all places are filled.

#### ***A little bit more about Linda***

Linda Kreger Silverman, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist and passionate advocate for the gifted. She founded and directs the Institute for the Study of Advanced Development, and its subsidiary, the Gifted Development Center in Denver, Colorado. Over 5,600 children have been assessed at the Gifted Development Center in the last 30 years. She also founded Visual-Spatial Resource She has been studying the psychology and education of the gifted since 1961 and has written over 300 articles, chapters and books in gifted education, including *Counseling the Gifted and Talented*, *Upside-Down Brilliance: The Visual-Spatial Learner* and *Advanced Development: A Collection of Works on Gifted Adults*. You can find out more about her work plus many fascinating articles on these websites:

[www.gifteddevelopment.com](http://www.gifteddevelopment.com) and [www.visualspatial.org](http://www.visualspatial.org)).