

I'm a mother of a gifted child, aged 7, in a public school. He's currently in Grade 2. He was tested as gifted, we, his parents, identified it at the end of prep and the results were shared with the school. We met with the principal and his teacher to identify ways that he could be extended. It was agreed that he would go up a grade for Maths and the teacher would provide us with an ILP. In the 18 months we have received two ILP's both of which focus only on his Maths progression, he has already completed Grade 3 maths by the end of term 2 and there is no further extension available to him. In his latest school report his reading was identified as being at a Grade 3 level, when his testing 18 months ago showed him to be at a grade 6/7. My frustration with the school is constant. Here is a kid who learns three times faster than average, being given the same work repeatedly as the rest of the class. He is bored and frustrated. I regularly pick him up and he cries in the car. He can't understand why it all moves so slowly and he already knows what the teacher is saying. At home we extend him, he does maths online, a science tutorial once a week and we visit the library every week. We feel he has lost another year this year in the school, and are actively looking for a new school that will extend him and engage him. I have also considered taking him out of school and homeschooling one day a week. He has this wonderful, curious mind, and is sharp as a tack, and I hate that I am putting him in an environment that is like living in slow motion for him. If kids are able, as my son is, brilliantly able, why is he being held back?