



PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE
PROGRAMA DE ESTUDIOS Y DESARROLLO DE

TALENTOS



PROGRAMA EDUCACIONAL PARA NIÑOS CON TALENTOS ACADÉMICOS

**Being highly intelligent does not necessary mean to be highly creative – well, only if you are
a talented child¹**

By Diana Boyanova, PhD

PENTA UC Escolar is an extracurricular, intra-school enrichment program designed for children from first to fourth grade. It includes identification and selection system, curriculums in language and mathematics, and a management model. Theoretically, the program is based on Sternberg's Triarchic theory of intelligence which states that the outstanding intellectual performance results from the joint use of three types of abilities – analytical, creative and practical. In our research on these abilities one significant result especially stood out – creative abilities of talented students were **negatively** correlated to both analytical abilities and practical intelligence², and this was the case for all talented students in all four grades³. Interestingly, the pattern of relationships between practical, analytical and creative abilities was quite the opposite

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² For additional information, please contact Diana Boyanova, Ph.D. (dboyanova@uc.cl).

³ Only for talented boys in first and second grade the relationship between creativity and analytical intelligence was not statistically significant.

among students who were not identified as academically talented – all of the statistically significant results were with **positive** direction. What does this tell us?

The analytical, creative and practical abilities are not equally developed in children with academic talent and this must be adequately met not only during the identification process, but moreover during the process of development of their talent through corresponding educational services. That is why the manuals in Language and Mathematics in the curriculum of PENTA UC Escolar were designed to contain tasks which develop each one of the three abilities. Although planned to be conducted in the regular classroom, our program is not a “regular” one; it seeks to offer complex and challenging content and activities, as well as teaching strategies which would adequately respond to children’s specific educational needs. In such way, they will be able to coordinate their analytical, creative and practical abilities and know when to use each of them in order to be successful – not only in their everyday life, but also in their future professional realization.