

# The Key To Raising Brilliant Kids? Play A Game

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We all want to raise smart, successful kids, so it's tempting to play Mozart for our babies and run math drills for kindergartners. After all, we need to give them a head start while they're still little sponges, right?

"It doesn't quite work that way," says Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University and co-author of [Becoming Brilliant: What Science Tells Us About Raising Successful Children](#) with Roberta Golinkoff. She's been studying childhood development for almost 40 years.

So how *does* it work? NPR Education reporters and *Life Kit* hosts Anya Kamenetz and Cory Turner talk with Hirsh-Pasek about the "six C's" that kids need to succeed — collaboration, communication, content, critical thinking, creative innovation and confidence — and why raising brilliant kids starts with redefining brilliant.