

#AUGMENTATION

CURIOSITY
ENHANCES MATHS
AND READING SKILLS

Genetic factors that predispose children to do well in school are also the same factors that predispose them to be more open to challenges, be creative, intellectually curious, and confident.



Characteristics related to openness, such as intellectual curiosity and confidence, may make children more adept at math and reading than characteristics that describe conscientiousness, such as diligence and perseverance, a new study shows. “Our findings provide additional knowledge on the complex set of skills that interact and give rise to differences in academic achievement between children, as well as the complexity of genetic architecture of academic achievement, which is made of many parts beyond intellect,” says Margherita Malanchini, a postdoctoral fellow in the Psychology department and the Population Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin.



Prior studies have linked differences in academic skills to differences in self-regulation, or how well children can control their behaviours and internal states against a backdrop of conflicting or distracting situations, drives, and impulses. However, self-regulation is a broad construct that incorporates both intellectual abilities, such as executive functioning, and personality traits, such as conscientiousness, researchers say. To understand the underlying skills and characteristics of self-regulation and how they contribute to differences in reading and math proficiency, researchers collected data from more than 1,000 twins, ages 8-14, in the Texas Twin Project, a large population-based twin study that UT Austin psychology associate professors Elliot Tucker-Drob and Paige Harden direct. Studies on twins allow researchers to isolate and observe the impact of genetic and environmental factors, in



It's Better To Know
The King Cobra



● Amy Y. Conry Davis

The deadly king cobra is the longest of all venomous snakes and easily claims the title of ‘king,’ this powerful reptile feeds mostly on other snakes and often lives for decades in the wild, as there are

few other animals that can kill this kind of snake. Found mostly in the rainforests and swamps of Asia, king cobras prefer habitats with thick vegetation, such as bamboo and mangrove thickets. The cobra has myths and stories attached to it, that shudder away most people, but some facts about this versatile snake will make them more real than surreal, as they are.

The King Cobra is the Longest of Venomous Snakes

There are hundreds of species of venomous snakes in the animal kingdom, but the king cobra is the longest of them all. An adult snake can be 10 to 12 feet long and weigh up to 20 pounds. When a cobra

‘stands,’ it can be eye to eye with a human of average height. The longest king cobra on record measured at 18 feet. As a comparison, the python, the longest non-venomous snake, can grow 20 feet long.

King Cobra's ‘Hoods’ are Actually Ribs

When a king cobra is on the defense, it produces a distinctive hood that flares around its face. This hood, like other parts of the snake's body, has markings unique to the king cobra. At first glance, the snake's hood looks like part of

its skin, but believe it or not, it's actually a system of rib bones and muscles that can flex and move. To make itself appear larger and more dangerous, the king cobra spreads these ribs and fans out the hood as it hisses and ‘stands’ up.

Their Venom is a Deadly Neurotoxin

Poisonous snakes are generally divided into two venom classifications: neurotoxic and hemotoxic. A neurotoxin is any poison directly affecting a human's or animal's nervous system. Hemotoxins, on the other hand, are typically found in rattlesnakes and vipers and affect a human's or animal's bloodstream.

A king cobra's venom is neurotoxic, when the snake strikes, it produces a small amount (mere ounces). Even this small amount can send the snake's prey into paralysis. Moreover, this venom is so poisonous that a human can die within minutes of being bitten. A large animal, such as an elephant, can die in a few hours.



#WILD



King Cobras are Cannibals

King Cobras are considered cannibalistic because they generally only eat other snakes. Occasionally, they may eat a small animal, rodent, or bird, but that's more characteristic of a common cobra. Cobras' stomachs have adapted with digestive juices to break down other snakes' poison and render it safe, so even if another snake is venomous, the king cobra isn't affected. Since king cobras don't have any teeth, they eat their prey

whole. The cobra's jaws can stretch and open wide to allow large animals to pass through, although it may take several minutes for them to swallow an animal entirely. Cobras can go months, even years, without eating, like several other snakes. Snakes don't need to drink water to survive, but they'll absorb it through their bellies as they pass through naturally wet areas, such as streams, marshes, and creek beds.

Female Cobras make Nests

The king cobra is the only snake that builds a nest. When a female cobra prepares to lay her eggs, usually in the spring, she creates a nest of leaves and twigs. The female builds walls and a cover to insulate and protect the eggs she'll lay (she lays a clutch, or a group of

eggs, which can be as many as 50 eggs). A female cobra remains in the nest, on guard, for several months until the eggs hatch. From the start, hatchlings can care for themselves and even bite if necessary. It takes about four years for a king cobra to reach maturity from the hatchling state.

The Mongoose is Their Biggest Predator

As powerful as the king cobra is, the mongoose is the one animal it will avoid crossing paths with. This small mammal, a member of the Herpestidae family, is only about a foot long but immune to many snakes' venom.

As a carnivore, the mongoose normally eats small rodents, like rats, but has been known to fight and kill venomous snakes. The mongoose won't hunt or track a cobra intentionally but will defend itself if threatened.

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



International Karaoke Day

here's something so compelling about taking a few minutes to belt out a song while pretending to be a rockstar! Perhaps, it's the thrill of holding a microphone, maybe, it's the idea of possibly being discovered and becoming famous, or it could just be that many people enjoy karaoke more after having a few drinks. International Karaoke Day is here to show appreciation for this fascinating form of interactive entertainment! The word comes from a combination of ‘kara’ which means empty and ‘oke’ which refers to an orchestra. Together, the word means ‘empty orchestra.’ As technology has advanced, karaoke has become more accessible to individuals and families, often with the ability to flash the lyrics on the screen.

#J'DORE

Stylish and Effortless
Hairdos

If you have an event to attend or simply want to feel more put together, then you might be interested in some ways to stay looking great in the rain.

If you wake up to rainy skies, it's more than acceptable to rock a ponytail and zero makeup. But when it starts to feel like a 24-hour sauna, the last thing you want to worry about is your hair. After all, there's nothing like a downpour and a touch of humidity to make things difficult. Apart from melting make-up, you'll likely have frizz to contend with, as well as possible damp strands. The only thing you should keep in mind on a rainy and humid day is the word ‘simple.’ Less is more on this day. If you have an event to attend or simply want to feel more put together, then you might be interested in some ways to stay looking great in the rain. We have rounded up a few cute and effortless hairstyles for you to rock in this everyday changing weather.



Cuff Buns



What is cooler than a top bun? Adding a metal bun cuff to it, of course! It's the perfect hassle-free quickie you can create and it just looks absolutely stunning with just about everything. Just toss all your hair up in a top bun, securing it with bobby pins. Add the metal cuff and voila! Don't you look perfect?

Side Up-do



Don't rains bring out the romantic side in you? Try a romantic hairstyle by twisting your hair up in a side low bun. Look chic and stunning with this hairstyle while heading out for that romantic date. Finish this look by spraying some Hair Polish for instant shine to add the extra glitz.

Half Clip



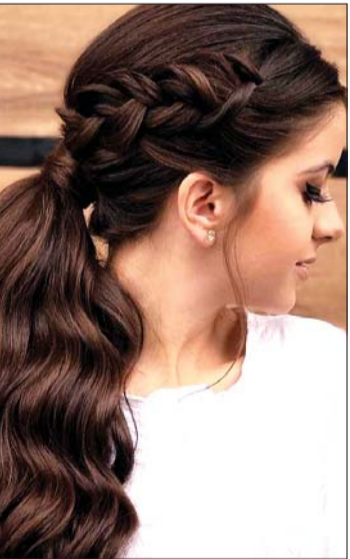
An ideal style for the monsoon! We all have those lazy days when we do not want to do much with our hair. Half clip hairdo then comes into the picture and makes our day and hairstyle worthwhile. This hairstyle can be made in many different styles but for the monsoon, we recommend the simple half tie up.

Sleek-High Pony Tail



High pony tails are easy, hassle-free and an ideal hairstyle for monsoon. One has to simply pull up all the hair and tie them with a rubber band. If you find any loose fly-aways here and there, then you can apply little mousse or gel to settle them and you are ready with an ultra glamorous hairstyle.

Side Braided Ponytail



Easy and fuss-free, the side braided ponytail is just perfect for monsoon. Your hair stays on one side and stays put, while the braid just adds more beauty to it. With a side part, pick up a section of your hair to create a French braid and tie it up in a ponytail, leaving some loose strands. To create a fuller ponytail, spray it with some volumizing leave-in spray and gently backcomb the hair.

Ballerina Bun



Ballerina buns are absolutely adorable. An easy hairstyle, this bun is created by swirling your hair at the back. You can either go for a super low ballerina bun or have it on slightly below the centre of the head. Not only will this help in keeping your hair from getting wet, but it will also allow you to stay stylish during this season.

Roll and Tuck



This is one of the easiest and stunning hairstyles. All you need to do is nicely grab your hair and tuck it in a loose bun. You can tuck this with the help of scarf as well. You can leave near the nape or take them little up on the crown area. The good thing is you can sport this style both with formal and casual wear.

French Fishtail



One can transform their pretty locks to an elegant looking fishtail braid during monsoon. It's a fun and trendy hairstyle which is opted by many women nowadays. And French fishtail is right now in vogue and is a big boon in this season.