

## Supertalents

*By Mista Cookie Jar & the Chocolate Chips, featuring Gregory Brown*

Los Angeles-based performer and multi-instrumentalist Mista Cookie Jar is known for his warm and groovy songs, always with positive messages. The song *Supertalents* is the joint work of Mista Cookie Jar and his family band (the Chocolate Chips). The singer has a very particular audience in mind: children. This song is an example of how *reggae-hip hop*, which is used to send out a clear message that the singer feels is important. In this song, Mista Cookie Jar wants every single child to know and understand how valuable and special they are. All children are born with “supertalents,” according to Mista Cookie Jar. They can all walk, dance, talk and make a positive impact on each other’s lives. Mista Cookie Jar’s flavor of reggae-hip hop comes not only with positive lyrics and easy to remember words: it also comes with a social contribution. His music brings happiness to listeners everywhere, whether they are simply listening to the songs on the radio or in one of the Californian schools and nursing homes where the singer frequently performs for free.



## Supertalents: Lyrics

by Mista Cookie Jar & the Chocolate Chips, featuring Gregory Brown  
(2:48)

- 1 Children! ever stop and think why you're put up on this planet?  
Each baby in the world born with a gift of God's good magic.  
Each got a puzzle piece in they life, you just got to got to grab it.  
Practice till that gift of goodness comin' auto-automatic,  
Make it so they understand it's all part of the plan.  
You and I, we so valiant  
We keep the world in balance with our gift of supertalents.  
Tell everybody don't panic. Combine our powers sit back.  
Watch God. Handle it. Tell your friends  
(Chorus):
- 10 If you can walk, you can dance. (if you can walk, you can dance)  
If you can talk, then you can sing. (if you can talk, you can sing)  
Everybody's born with a beautiful gift.  
Now that ya know ain't that a beautiful thing?  
(You better know it's something beautiful)
- 15 It doesn't matter what they think,  
Doesn't matter what they say  
What only matters is the time that ya give in everyday.  
Little by little baby steps get ya moving  
Day by day keep on improving  
Moving mountains in such da slightest way.  
Try to keep the possibilities open, always in motion,  
Always seekin' love  
'Cause where there's love, there is a pathway.  
Feel it with your heart. Let your mind and soul follow.  
Seek tomorrow. Every day's a new day.  
So just try to stay in shape.  
(Chorus:)
- 27 'Cause if ya walk, you can dance. (and if you walk, you can dance)  
If you can talk, then you can sing. (and if you talk, you can sing)  
Everybody's born with a beautiful gift.  
Now that ya know, ain't that a beautiful thing?  
It's such a beautiful thing...



32 (Boys and girls: Allow me to introduce my gypsy twin brother, Mr. Gregory Brown)

33 Aren't ya gettin' tired of seeing wasted potential  
Buildin' up into nothing, diggin' atcha to ya very know-how?  
It'll amount to nothin' more than a can o' beans in this world  
If ya never finally follow your true passion held in store now.  
So why'd ya get one for the gipper?  
Shouldn't you deliver something for the children  
That are whisperin' into your ears?  
You better notice that you're standing in the shadow,  
But just would ya look at all this light!  
You're shinin' at 'em bright and clear.

43 Only up to you 'cause only you can fully truly  
Put your heart into if it is what you really wanna do.  
Whatcha gotta do instead of flyin' the coop,  
Legitimately get the scoop.  
Evaluate your passion so ya sew your seeds.  
Then eat your fruits... of your labor.  
Go ahead and savor.  
You've resisted the law of resistance,  
Now look at what's on the table.  
It's your potential staring straight in your face.  
Quite amazingly I'm saying it's deliciously true.  
(Chorus):

54 If ya can walk, you can dance. (if you can walk, you can dance)  
If you can talk, you can sing. (if you can talk, you can sing)  
Everybody's born with a beautiful gift.  
Now that ya know, ain't that a beautiful thing?

58 If ya can walk, you can dance. (if you can walk, you can dance)  
If you can talk, you can sing. (if you can talk, you can sing)  
Everybody's born with a beautiful gift.  
Now that ya know, ain't that a beautiful thing?  
It's such a beautiful thing.  
You better know, it's such a beautiful thing.



## Supertalents: Find Someone Who...

*Directions:* Walk around the classroom asking your classmates questions. Use the topics below to form questions using the following question patterns:

- Can you...?,
- Do you...?, or
- Have you ever...?

If a classmate answers 'Yes' then write his or her name in the space. If he or she answers 'No' then do not write anything. Try to find a different person for each space. Do not use the same name twice.

Find someone who...

\_\_\_\_\_...can sing well

\_\_\_\_\_...knows how to play the guitar

\_\_\_\_\_...has won a prize in a sports competition

\_\_\_\_\_...knows how to set up a tent

\_\_\_\_\_...has done a traditional dance performance

\_\_\_\_\_...can bake a delicious cake

\_\_\_\_\_...knows how to sew

\_\_\_\_\_...exercises more than three times a week to stay in shape

\_\_\_\_\_...has written a poem or a short story

\_\_\_\_\_...can speak more than two languages

\_\_\_\_\_...has taken care of a stray animal

\_\_\_\_\_...knows how to play chess



## Multiple Intelligences

“Supertalents” is an inspiring and encouraging song. The group Mista Cookie Jar and the Chocolate Chips, along with guest artist Gregory Brown, sing that every person is born with a unique gift or talent, which he or she should practice and use every day. According to the song, everyone is good at something!

Of course, this idea is not new. Howard Gardner, an American developmental psychologist and professor at Harvard University, developed a theory of multiple intelligences in the 1980s. According to this theory, there are at least eight types of intelligence. Individuals think about things in different ways. These different intelligences affect people’s learning, memory, thoughts, and interests. As a result, different people are good at different things.

1. **Verbal-linguistic intelligence:** This intelligence governs the ability to use language and words. Linguistically intelligent people are able to listen to, speak, read, and write well in one or more languages and they tend to **conceptualize**<sup>5</sup> thoughts using words rather than pictures.
2. **Logical-mathematical intelligence:** This intelligence controls the ability to use logic, numbers, and scientific reasoning. People who have logical-mathematical intelligence ask lots of questions and like to make connections among pieces of information.
3. **Visual-spatial intelligence:** People with visual-spatial intelligence like to **visualize**<sup>6</sup> their thoughts in pictures and hold information in their minds in the form of images. They can also navigate well through unfamiliar spaces.
4. **Musical intelligence:** Musically intelligent people are **perceptive**<sup>7</sup> and responsive to sounds, rhythms, tones, and patterns. They are often involved in producing music.
5. **Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence:** This type of intelligence regards the control of body movements and the expression of ideas through movements. People with this intelligence have good hand-eye coordination and sense of balance. They learn best by doing and actively interacting with their surroundings.
6. **Interpersonal**<sup>8</sup> **intelligence:** People possessing this type of intelligence have the ability to relate to and empathize with other people. They perceive other people’s feelings and moods, while at the same time, they communicate well with others.



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<sup>5</sup> **conceptualize** to form (an idea, picture, etc.) of something in your mind

<sup>6</sup> **visualize** to form a mental picture of (someone or something), imagine

<sup>7</sup> **perceptive** able to notice something easily

<sup>8</sup> **interpersonal** relating to or involving relations between people



7. **Intrapersonal intelligence:** People with **intrapersonal**<sup>9</sup> intelligence are able to reflect on their own feelings and the inner workings of their minds and hearts. They like to analyze themselves by recognizing their personal strengths and weaknesses.
8. **Naturalistic intelligence:** The eighth type of intelligence refers to the ability to take care of the natural environment and recognize the objects that are in it.

Gardner and other supporters of the multiple intelligences theory are still considering if there are other intelligences to add to the typology. Mista Cookie Jar believes everyone is born with a unique gift or talent. We just have to find it and make use of it every day!

### **Supertalents: A Range of Questions**

**Question 1:** How many types of intelligence are currently in the Gardner theory of multiple intelligences? *(focusing)*

**Question 2:** Can you think of suitable jobs or occupations for each type of intelligence? *(inferring)*

**Question 3:** Can you think of some other intelligences that might be added to the theory of multiple intelligences? *(evaluating)*

**Question 4:** Which of these intelligences do you think you possess? Which ones do you wish you had? *(relating)*

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<sup>9</sup> **intrapersonal** within a person



## Supertalents: Paragraph Posters

### Model Descriptive Paragraph – Qualities needed to be a good teacher

A good teacher needs to have at least three qualities: patience, a clear delivery, and knowledge of the subject. First of all, a teacher often has to care for a large number of students every day. Students may be noisy, have trouble concentrating in class, or may need to have information explained many times. Therefore, a good teacher has to be calm and patient. A good teacher should also be able to speak clearly and loudly so that every student in the classroom can hear what is being said. Clear delivery is necessary for students' comprehension of knowledge. Most important, a good teacher should have a thorough understanding of his or her subject area so that students can learn the most up-to-date and useful knowledge. Being knowledgeable allows the teacher to answer students' questions. Although teaching is not an easy task, a person with these three qualities will be on his or her way to being a good teacher.

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## Supertalents: Answer Keys

### Did You Hear What I Heard? Answer Key

1. dance
2. sing
3. a beautiful gift
4. that everyone has their own special talents

