



A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children

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Raising a gifted child is both a joy and a challenge, yet parents of gifted children have few resources for reliable parenting information. The authors of this book are nationally known experts in giftedness, as well as parents themselves. From their decades of professional experience working with gifted children and their families, they provide practical guidance in key areas of concern for parents, such as the characteristics commonly seen in gifted children, peer relations, sibling issues, motivation and underachievement, discipline issues, intensity and stress, depression and unhappiness, education planning, parenting concerns, finding professional help, and much more. This is a book that parents will turn to again and again. Distinguished as an iParenting Media Award-Winner, USA Books News Award-Winner, and GLYPH Award-Winner!

A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children Details

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From Reader Review A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children for online ebook

Janet says

Appendix is full of valuable resources such as:

Association for the Education of the Gifted Underachieving Students (AEGUS)
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Davidson Institute for Talent Development (DITD)
The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC)
Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted (SENG)

<http://www.davidsongifted.org/>
<http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>
<http://www.nagc.org/>
<http://sengifted.org/>
<http://www.tagfam.org/>

Journals:

Gifted Child Quarterly
Gifted Child Today
Gifted Education Communicator
Parenting for High Potential
Roeper Review
Twice-Exception Newsletter
Understanding our Gifted

This one wasn't in the appendix, but it's another great source of info on real-life with gifted kids.
<https://www.notsoformulaic.com/>

A partial list of the book's Suggested Readings:

****Some of My Best Friends Are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers**** [A great resource for book-loving kids]

****The Explosive Child: A New Approach for Understanding and Parenting Easily Frustrated, Chronically Inflexible Children**** [Should probably be read by everyone, especially teachers, as the strategies are applicable to everyone]

Perfectionism: What's Bad about Being too Good?
Growing Up Gifted: Developing the Potential of Children at Home and at School
Raise Your Child's Social IQ: Stepping Stones to People Skills for Kids
The Social and Emotional Lives of Gifted Kids: Understanding and Guiding Their Development
Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Gifted Children
When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers: How to Meet Their Social and Emotional Needs
The Survival Guide for Gifted Kids: For Ages 10 and Under
Transforming the Difficult Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach

Freeing Our Families From Perfectionism
Fighting Invisible Tigers: Stress Management for Teens
Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family
Smart Girls: A New Psychology of Girls, Women, and Giftedness (Revised Edition)
Being Smart About Gifted Children: A Guidebook For Parents And Educators
The Power to Prevent Suicide: A Guide for Teens Helping Teens
They Say My Kid's Gifted: Now What?
Keys to Parenting the Gifted Child
Creative Home Schooling: A Resource Guide for Smart Families
Re-Forming Gifted Education: How Parents and Teachers Can Match the Program to the Child
Losing Our Minds: Gifted Children Left Behind
The Optimistic Child: A Proven Program to Safeguard Children Against Depression and Build Lifelong Resilience (M. Seligman)
Helping Gifted Children Soar: A Practical Guide for Parents and Teachers
Grandparents' Guide to Gifted Children

The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids: How to Understand, Live With, and Stick Up for Your Gifted Child

Marianna says

I read this book as part of a SENG Model Parent's Group.

I gained quite a bit of perspective about both myself and my gifted children, as well as techniques for parenting that have led to more positive interactions. My one complaint with this book was that at times I felt like it had an elitist tone. The phrase "the gifted child..." started to grate on my nerves after awhile, especially when applied to behaviors or feelings that can be attributed to all children.

Krista says

Like many who have reviewed this book, I felt obnoxious the whole time I was reading it. It took me longer to read it, too, because I wouldn't read it in public, for fear someone would see that I thought my child was gifted.

Then I got to the sentence that said, "Parenting a gifted child can be a lonely experience" and I laughed at myself, holed up in my home, trying to read a book almost secretly.

My kid is bright. He is smart. But he's also challenged in ways. I don't like the word "gifted" necessarily, as I think all kids are gifted in some way, be it a way our society values or not. But the chapter entitled "Characteristics of a Gifted Child" had so many head-nodding moments for me; if gifted is being defined as this book defines it, my child is gifted.

And being gifted has as much bad in it as it does good in it. I get told all the time, "You're lucky your child is smart. It would be so much harder if he weren't." Of course, these people aren't trying to parent my kid. All

parenting is hard. To assume that any parenting is easier than any other parenting is hubris. It isn't easier or harder to rear my kid; it's different.

This book had some cheesy suggestions, like most parenting books do, but it validated many of the parenting techniques I use already (most tellingly the nazi-like sleep schedule we keep our kid on; we get hammered and teased for that all the time but I feel, strongly, that it is one of the main reasons our kid is as even-keel as he is ... this book agrees ... so there, naysayers) and it gave me some insight and tools I didn't already have.

It gave me validation, ideas and concepts about which I had never thought. And when I'm stumped, I feel strongly that I will be able to find ideas therein. And if not therein, in the resource list included at the end of the book.

All kids are gifted but this book gives one tools designed to successfully manage the most accepted definition(s) of "gifted" in all its challenges and rewards.

Megan says

I read this book because it was listed as a resource for a program at M's school. I also saw the Amazon stellar reviews that claimed it was a great resource, worth owning and referring to.

And, on the upside, it is a pretty complete resource. It discusses a variety of topics (discipline, depression, education goals, etc) with complete coverage and modern accepted conclusions. For example, the chapter on discipline seemed to distill many useful suggestions from some of the most popular and accepted current discipline methods. There are one or two chapters that are distinctly aimed at children who display giftedness, and those chapters are probably uniquely useful (for example, the one that goes into how academic giftedness is identified, and how different approaches to educating gifted children work). The book also talks about how kids can be gifted on different dimensions, not merely linguistic/mathematical, and I felt the entirety of the book maintained a good balance on that scale.

However, I found myself feeling that 90% of the book would read just as true if the word 'gifted' were just left out. There is very little that is applicable to ONLY the gifted child. (In the chapter on Depression, say, there was some discussion of whether gifted children are more prone to depression. It is suggested that they may be more commonly exposed to depressive stimuli, like a mismatch between school and learning style. It is also pointed out that studies about the rates of depression are flawed or inconclusive. And, the remainder of the ideas or information, while good, apply to all children struggling with that issue.)

It is repeatedly stated that giftedness has drawbacks, and that the very things that make a child gifted can also make that child face difficulties or be difficult to raise. This grated on my nerves a bit, and i'm not sure there is much evidence to make those statements.

Much of the information about sensitivities is also found in 'Raising your Spirited Child', which I found to be a more useful and easier-to-read book.

I'm giving it a lot of stars because i think it is a well researched and complete parenting resource. But I am hesitant to recommend it merely on the basis of addressing gifted children, because I suspect we are better off parenting out *children*, not our *gifted children*.

Valerie says

I read this as a part of a class/discussion group put on by our school district for parents of gifted children. I found myself frequently nodding my head in agreement, and learned so much, and have several ideas of things I'd like to try.

Lisa says

Our school district recommended this book for parents of G&T students, so I read it to gain a better understanding of the philosophies that may be guiding their G&T program. My husband and I had our own G&T educational experiences growing up but education at all levels appears to have changed considerably and we wanted to be prepared.

Some of the book deals with basic parenting issues and dispenses basic parenting advice (give children choices, use natural consequences whenever possible, phrase your requests carefully, etc) and isn't specific to gifted children. There are also sections that focus on personality traits that are commonly found among this population, "twice-exceptional" children, educational options and advocating for your child in the school system.

None of it was particularly ground-breaking, although the section on testing, educational options, and advocating for your child will be of use to parents whose children are not in good educational settings. Also, the book appears aimed primarily at a middle or upper-middle class audience--or seems to have been written from that perspective--so it brings certain assumptions with that.

There is a lot of focus on gifted children being different from the rest of the population, and while I would agree that there are differences the book doesn't address the reality that even gifted children will grow up to be adults who need to interact with others. It literally said that the best solution would be for all children to learn "business friendly" skills, whereas I would go one step further and discourage elitism. Yes, gifted children have special abilities and will likely be close friends with those of similar abilities (which is true of everyone, by the way), but a compassionate view of society that sees everyone as having something to contribute and being worthy of friendship is a better approach. One can be "business friendly" with one's mechanic--or one can be genuinely friendly with the mechanic because the mechanic is good at what he or she does and deserves the same respect as anyone else. For that matter, there's something to be said by not judging a book by its cover. One's occupation is still closely tied to socioeconomic status, so making assumptions about others based on their job or their school placement or anything else without taking the time to know them is elitism at its worst.

There were a few other sections that also struck me as elitist and not terribly useful, but they were tempered by other section that took a more realistic approach.

Parents who may be new to G&T education will probably find this a useful introduction, but should take care to focus on the educational and emotional needs of their children.

Katie says

From the time my first child was born I have been frustrated by general advice given to me by parenting books and medical professionals. My children eat more often, sleep less, achieve milestones sooner, are more active, and respond differently to discipline than what children are "supposed to." Occasionally I have let these differences really stress me out, as I stressed over what I was doing wrong to "mess up" my child. Eventually I just decided that these problems were caused by an over-emphasis in our culture of standardizing child care--we take the average and then state that all children must fit into that average, ignoring the fact that an average is actually made up of a wide range of data. I decided that as long as I didn't see a problem I wasn't going to let anyone convince me there was one.

So, when I say that this is the first parenting book that actually comes anywhere near to describing or understanding my children, it is not a casual statement. This is a comprehensive book on what it means to parent a "gifted child" (which, I just have to say, is a terrible, polarizing term that does not come close to describing what is really more of a neurological condition than just a simple "gift"). It goes into everything from motivation, to discipline, to education, to family dynamics. My husband and I both learned a lot about ourselves as we discussed what was in this book. I found this book reassuring and enlightening. I repeatedly found myself thinking, "This describes exactly how I feel!" or "That is so Tim!" or "Could you describe Kalyn any better?" I highly recommend this book to anyone who thinks their children may be gifted, or even if you just think you yourself might be gifted.

I hope this doesn't come across as conceited. If you even skim the book you will find out that "giftedness" is about a whole lot more than just doing good in school. There is a whole host of problems that goes along with it, which have definitely had a huge impact on my life. DO NOT read this if you're just interested in having your child do better in school because you will find absolutely no help from this book. DO read this if you see your child struggling with such issues as sensitivity, intensity, and social dysfunction and you want to help them deal with these problems and go on to become happy, functioning adults.

Jennifer says

I kind of hate adding this to my Goodreads list because I don't want to seem like I'm saying, "Um, my child might be gifted, so that's why I'm reading books on this subject matter... just so you know...."

BUT... Oh my dear heavens—finally some insight into my SON. The child isn't INSANE, he must be GIFTED. (Although that's apparently a fine line to walk.)

But seriously, this book was literally the most insightful parenting book I've read in awhile in regards to my oldest (the other kids may very well be gifted, but at this stage in the game tantrums and drooling are taking precedence, so that's hard to say...). Anyway--I devoured it; I took a bunch of notes; I had so many aha-moments. Was it that so many of these things applied to my boy, or that it just brought up some generally good parenting things?—Who knows. But at least this book has helped me, in the two days that I've read it, to not be so driven crazy by the child and his freaky quirks.

Sara says

I began reading this book last year while trying to find a school for my daughter which would be a "good fit" I found it in my dresser and began reading again it when my daughter's school district announced they were having a TAG info night in order to form a SENG (supporting emotional needs of gifted) parent group - I highly recommend this book - it has been the best one I've read on this topic to date!

Dan Richter says

Sehr guter Überblick über die wichtigen Themen, mit denen Eltern hochbegabter Kinder konfrontiert sind.

- Definition von Hochbegabung
- Ausprägung und Kommunikation
- versteckte Hochbegabung
- Kommunikation mit der Schule

Vor allem ermutigt es Eltern, zur Begabung ihres Kindes zu stehen verantwortungsvoll damit umzugehen.

Viel zu schnell hat man ja den Stempel weg, überehrgeizig zu sein, nur die eigenen unerfüllten Wünsche zu projizieren oder zu helikoptern.

Glücklicherweise wächst in Deutschland momentan das Verständnis von Hochbegabung stark. (Die Arbeit der deutschen Bearbeiter und Lektoren an diesem Buch ist sehr zu loben. Sie verweisen stets auf deutsche Äquivalente zu den amerikanischen Angeboten.) Es gibt mehr Psychologen, die sich damit auskennen, die Politik zieht nach. Man kann nur hoffen, dass man auf kompetente Pädagogen trifft oder zumindest auf solche, die selbst zu lernen bereit sind.

Nicole says

Great guide for parents and teachers who need to understand more about gifted children and their special needs.

Chapter 1 - Defining Giftedness

Chapter 2 - Characteristics of Gifted Children

Chapter 3 - Communication: the Key to Relationships

Chapter 4 - Motivation, Enthusiasm, and Underachievement

Chapter 5 - Establishing Discipline and Teaching Self-Management

Chapter 6 - Intensity, Perfectionism, and Stress

Chapter 7 - Idealism, Unhappiness, and Depression

Chapter 8 - Acquaintances, Friends, and Peers

Chapter 9 - Family Relationships: Siblings and Only Children

Chapter 10 - Values, Traditions, and Uniqueness

Chapter 11 - Complexities of Successful Parenting

Chapter 12 - Children Who Are Twice-Exceptional

Chapter 13 - How Schools Identify Gifted Children

Chapter 14 - Finding a Good Educational Fit

Chapter 15 - Finding Professional Help

Kati says

Reading this for a class I am taking. I sure wish I would have been offered this education before now. It seems like there is so much support for parents with children who struggle in school. There are all kinds of additional educational opportunities and never a fight to get them all the support they need. Because, after all, they deserve the help. People don't want to hear about the needs of a "gifted" child. No one feels that this child needs any additional support for the struggles they might be having. I was fortunate to have wonderful teachers for my son in Kindergarten and first grade. They saw what he needed and implemented many different things to keep him on track. Second grade was the eye opener for me. I asked for help. Even begged at times. Offered to volunteer to come in and do what ever could be done to help. Never was taken up on the offer and we found ourselves just making it through the year. I even had the teacher explain that Ryan couldn't be gifted because he "struggled" in some areas. So sad that our educators are so ignorant to the needs of our children. They believe that a "gifted" child is brilliant in all areas and don't struggle with anything? There were several children in my son's class that were needing more...but the idea of public school is to keep the kids in a little box of where they think they should be. I am hoping this year will be different. A program in this area is available once they reach 3rd grade. He tested into the ALL program and so far he is loving school. I am hoping for something beyond that. I am hoping to learn how to help my child beyond 3rd grade. Help him learn to be okay with himself. Know it is okay to be different. Know that no matter what, home is a safe place for him and he isn't "weird" or "crazy". Socially we need help. Academically maybe not. My child deserves additional opportunities just like any other child. I am finding it necessary to be his advocate. No one is going to fight for him like his mom. And, believe me, I am a fighter. :)

Laura Schulkind says

Possibly the most important book in Gifted and Talented education. This book clearly defines and describes characteristics, and gives parents guidelines for supporting the intellectual and emotional growth of their child.

Aref Atia says

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Judi says

I would recommend this book for any parent...especially if your child is identified as gifted. I even enjoyed it as a teacher.
