



## **Your Child Is Gifted What Does Gifted Mean?**

What is giftedness? There is no universal definition. Some professionals define "gifted" as an intelligence test score above 130, two or more standard deviations above the norm, or the top 2.5%. Others define "gifted" based on scholastic achievement: a gifted child works 2 or more grade levels above his or her age. Still others see giftedness as prodigious accomplishment: adult-level work while chronologically a child. But these are far from the only definitions. Former U. S. Commissioner of Education Sidney P. Marland, Jr., in his August 1971 report to Congress, stated:

*Gifted and talented children are those identified by professionally qualified persons who by virtue of outstanding abilities are capable of high performance. These are children who require differentiated educational programs and/or services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program in order to realize their contribution to self and society.*

No Child Left Behind legislation created a new, achievement-based definition of giftedness, however it does not mandate that states use its definition:

*The term "gifted and talented", when used with respect to students, children, or youth, means students, children, or youth who give evidence of high achievement capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who need services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop those capabilities. (Title IX, Part A, Section 9101(22), p. 544)*

A group of respected professionals in the field of gifted suggest a definition based on the gifted child's differences from the norm:

*"Giftedness is asynchronous development in which advanced cognitive abilities and heightened intensity combine to create inner experiences and awareness that are qualitatively different from the norm. This asynchrony increases with higher intellectual capacity. The uniqueness of the gifted renders them particularly vulnerable and requires modifications in parenting, teaching and counseling in order for them to develop optimally." The Columbus Group, 1991, cited by Martha Morelock, "[Giftedness: The View from Within](#)", in [Understanding Our Gifted](#), January 1992.*

There are many definitions to gifted, but they all discuss similar characteristics.

(Resource: [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted\\_101.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/gifted_101.htm))



## What You Might See In Your Gifted Child

- Asynchronous or uneven development which causes difficulty in relating to self or others
- May see a strive for perfectionism
- May see the child focusing more on the inability to do things than their ability to do things
- Some may get their energy from other peers (extrovert) and some may get their energy from being alone (introvert)
- Giftedness has an emotional as well as intellectual component. Intellectual complexity goes hand in hand with emotional depth. Just as gifted children's thinking is more complex and has more depth than other children's, so too, are their emotions more complex and more intense.

Gifted children are children first, and like all children may sometimes misbehave. Although giftedness itself doesn't cause behavior problems, some of the special characteristics of giftedness may affect behavior. For example, gifted children are often intense and strong-willed. Some gifted children are overly perfectionist and impatient with themselves and others. Gifted children may also sound so adult-like that parents sometimes expect behavior beyond their children's level of maturity. In school, gifted children may sometimes act out because they are not being academically challenged.

As a parent/guardian, support and nourish your gifted child. Seek out information and books to help you further understand your gifted child. In this packet of information, you will find some helpful information.



## Resources

### Websites:

[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) (National Association for Gifted Children)

[www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org) (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted)

[www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org) (Hoagies Gifted Education Page – Many book/article referrals)

[www.tagfam.org](http://www.tagfam.org) (The TAG Project)

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org) (Council for Exceptional Children)

[www.ditd.org](http://www.ditd.org) (Davidson Institute for Talent Development)

[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org) (National Association for Gifted Children – Summer Programs)

### Wonderful Books:

*When Gifted Kids Don't Have All the Answers* by Jim Delisle and Judy Galbraith

*The Survival Guide for Parents of Gifted Kids* by S.Y. Walker

*Guiding the Gifted Child* by J.T. Webb, E.A. Meckstroth, and S.S. Tolan

*Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children* by James R. Delisle