

What I would want every parent, teacher, and administrator to know about gifted children.

1. They need to be identified.
 - Show and discuss chart of gifted vs. high achiever vs. creative. Can you identify anyone- yourself, a child, your spouse, a student, or a peer?
 - This is not something that will go away or, on the flip-side, that will prosper unless the child is identified and receives necessary assistance.
 - Identification and proper services will help classroom behaviors.
2. They need to be with other gifted children.
 - Clustering benefits everyone- gifted, high achievers, average, low, and the teacher.
 - Easier for teachers to differentiate when they have a small group of gifted.
 - Working with gifted children is not for everyone and that is ok. It is not easy. Teachers that do work with gifted students must be educated on how to help and develop giftedness.
3. They can be intense.
 - They need affective education as well as academic.
 - Most gifted children have one or more of the following intensity/excitability: intellectual, emotional, imaginal, sensual, and psychomotor. Go over characteristics of each one. (Recognize anyone?)
4. They have special needs that must be addressed in the classroom.
 - Having them be peer helpers &/or do extra work is not ok. This is not only discouraging but also punitive.
 - They need time in their day where they are pushed, stretched, and challenged and where they are facilitated by an adult, not lectured.
5. They are special, like every child, and when they are identified, clustered, acknowledged, and have their needs met, EVERYONE benefits and are more successful and content.

Here's to the crazy ones.

The misfits.

The rebels.

The troublemakers.

The round pegs in the square holes.

The ones who see things differently.

They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can praise them, disagree with them, quote them, disbelieve them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing that you can't do is ignore them.

Because they change things.

They invent.

They imagine.

They heal.

They explore.

They create.

They inspire.

They push the human race forward.

Maybe they have to be crazy. How else can you stare at an empty canvas and see a work of art? Or sit in silence and hear a song that's never been written? Or gaze at a red planet and see a laboratory on wheels? And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do. - Apple Computer Advertisement

What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning.

Chuck Grassley

Society has not given the same attention to the education of the genius as has been given to other groups. We spend millions every year for the mentally retarded. The unfortunate child of superior intellect spends his time in a usual commonplace school assimilating a diet far below his expected capacity. The gifted child poses one of our greatest present-day problems beginning in the home and ultimately becoming a concern of the school.

Teachers bear the responsibility to recognize and plan for the needs of the gifted. - Sister Josephine Concannon, Assessing Human Potential

"It's a tough time to raise, teach or be a highly gifted child... Schools are to extraordinarily intelligent children what zoos are to cheetahs... Every organism has an internal drive to fulfill its biological design. The same is true for unusually bright children. From time to time the bars need be removed, the enclosures broadened. Zoo Chow, easy and cheap as it is, must give way, at least some of the time, to lively, challenging mental prey." - Stephanie Tolan