

The Joys and Frustrations of Parenting Gifted Children



- Suki Wessling



Gripes, questions, joys, complaints...



Social/emotional

Social/
emotional
issues affect
your child's life
and your
parenting.

Siblings

Gifted siblings
may often be at
odds with each
other.

Academic

This is where
our kids are
supposed to
shine, right?
But that's not
always the
case.

Twice-exceptional

2e issues throw
another twist
into the already
complex
package.

Being a parent

Did you have
any idea
parenting
would be like
this? What can
we do to make
it easier?

Gripes, questions, joys, complaints...
Here are the topics we added to each
category:



Social/emotional

- Self-image
- Perfectionism
- Interactions with other children – how can gifted kids learn to interact with different types of people?
- Finding intellectual peers
- Authority issues, suffering fools gladly
 - Egalitarianism
 - Inflexibility
 - Moral compass

Siblings

- Gifted in different ways
 - When one sib is 2e
 - Sibs bounce off each other
 - How smart is he?, comparing siblings
 - Dislike, sensitivities

Gripes, questions, joys, complaints...



Academic

- Perfectionism
- Interacting with schools
- Good fit in a school—there are some schools out there that accommodate gifted kids
- Not good fit in school—how long should a child be in the wrong environment while trying to work things out?
- Balance – learning with non-gifted peers

2e

- Asperger's? Borderline diagnoses?
- Separating symptoms from gifted
- I'm sorry we didn't get to these issues! I highly recommend the book "Children with High-Functioning Autism" even if you don't have a diagnosis, see my review here:
<http://blog.sukiwessling.com/2013/04/book-review-children-with-high-functioning-autism/>
- See my piece on misdiagnosis at <http://www.greatpotentialpress.com/a-parents-view-from-the-psychiatrists-couch>

Gripes, questions, joys, complaints...



Parenting

- Lenses you see your children through
- Parenting styles—we have to parent each child individually and help them understand that “fair” is not the same as “same.”
- No downtime—Getting time away from your children so you can be a better parent
- Different parenting styles can create a good balance—work with spouse to maximize benefit of different styles rather than struggle against them

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Resources:

All recommended books and websites are linked from my website:

<http://sukiwessling.com/gifted-links>

Essential:

A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children (Webb et al)

Hoagies' Gifted website <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/>

Overexcitabilities, psychological health:

Living with Intensity (Daniels, Piechowski)

SENGifted.org website <http://www.sengifted.org/>

"Taming the Worry Monster" – PDF of Dan Peters' talk available online

Some of my Best Friends are Books (Halsted)

James Webb on existential depression—*Searching for Meaning* book or look for article on Sengifted.org.

2e issues:

The Mislabeled Child (Eide and Eide)

Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnoses of Gifted Children and Adults (Webb)

Quirky Kids (Klass and Costello)

Fiction about gifted children:

Diana Wynne Jones. Excellent list:

http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/featuring_gifted.htm

This PPT document will be posted for download at SukiWessling.com/present