

I think my
kid is
smarter
than me!



EverydayGracesHomeschool.com

Smart Kids

VS

Gifted Kids

know the answers to questions	ask the questions
are interested in what is going on around them	are intensely curious about everything
apply effort to learning and mastering subjects	absorb content effortlessly draw inferences, construct abstractions
are pleased with themselves and their learning	are often highly critical of themselves and self-deprecating
are attentive, work hard, and share good ideas	are engaged intellectually and have unique, original ideas

*Adapted from Smart Kids vs Gifted Kids chart at RaisingLifelongLearners.com



What exactly
is giftedness?
And why does it matter?

Common myths about giftedness:

- All gifted kids are high achievers
- Gifted children are self-directed
- Gifted children's social and emotional abilities are at the same level as their intelligence and cognition
- All children are gifted
- Gifted children can't have disabilities/special needs
- All gifted children are gifted academically
- All gifted children read early
- Giftedness makes school and life easy
- Gifted children are easy to raise

The Truth:

- Gifted children are often perfectionists, idealists, and associate achievement with self-worth. This leads to fear of failure interfering with achievement.
- Gifted kids are asynchronous.
- All children are a gift, but giftedness is a neurological diagnosis that indicates an ability to think and process differently from neuro-typical people.
- Some gifted children also have special needs: medical, physical, and learning.
- There is nothing easier about raising a gifted child

If and When to Test

- If you suspect twice exceptionalities like attention deficits, dyslexia, auditory processing disorders, etc. then it is advisable to have your child tested by a child psychologist who is experienced in testing gifted and twice exceptional children.



- If your child exhibits significant gaps between comprehension and ability, troubling behaviors like anxiety or depression, or other discrepancies that set off your parental alarm. You know your child best!

What obstacles do you face homeschooling a gifted child?

- Asynchrony
- Overexcitabilities
- Intensities
- Keeping up with interests
- Challenging your child
- Funding hobbies
- Discerning what's willful defiance from your child needing help



Adjusting for Asynchrony



- Boxed curriculum rarely fits
- Each subject may be a different level
- Your child's cognition may be far ahead of writing capability
- twice exceptional students and profoundly gifted students are more likely to have very wide ranges of asynchrony
- It is common for gifted children to lack executive skills to varying degrees
- Hands-on learning is a good way to help asynchronous learners to succeed

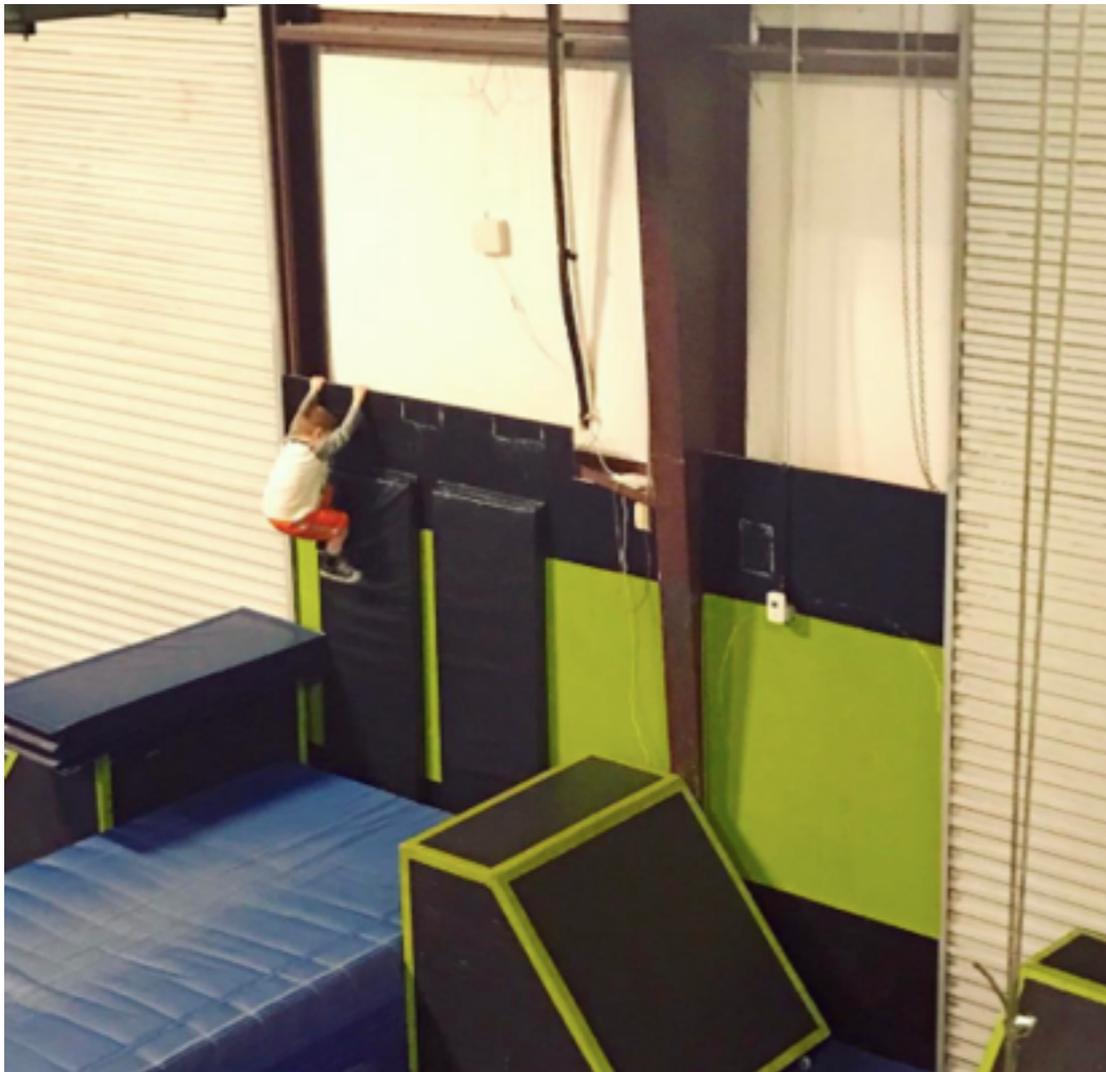
Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities

- Psychomotor
- Sensual
- Imaginational
- Intellectual
- Emotional



Help for Dealing with Intensities

- Celebrate your child's ability to empathize
- Set aside quiet time every day - intense children often have trouble falling and/or staying asleep and need downtime to regroup



- Help your child find outlets for intense emotions
- Find physical outlets for all that intense energy

Interests that Change Faster than Minutes

- Be prepared for unfinished work
- Interest-led learning works
- Lap-books may take months or years
- Extracurricular activities may change frequently
- Interest in certain subjects may border on obsession
- Rewards often don't work
- Consequences often do not work



Challenging Gifted Children to Keep Them Engaged

- Follow their lead on what is academically appropriate
- Utilize hands-on activities
- Games are a great way to include learning that is fun and challenging
- Explore different learning styles
- Find a method that works



Funding the Varying Interests and Hobbies of Gifted Kids

Hobbies and extracurricular activities can make you feel like you are handing away all your money.



- Look for online classes for the arts
- Institute rules for how many extracurricular outlets each child can have at a time
- When your child is old enough to work, allow them to help earn money to pay for the extras
- Physical programs can often be found at community centers for reasonable fees

Discerning Defiance from Cries for Help

Executive skills that are underdeveloped look like willful disobedience.

Executive function and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully.

- * Try and find out the root of the issue
- * Is this issue something that is subject specific
- * Is your child genuinely upset over the issue
- * What systems have you put in place
- * Does it look like a “can’t” or a “won’t”



Ultimately, our goal is to provide our children with the tools they need to succeed in the path God has chosen for them.



Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.

Albert Einstein

Resources can be found at
<http://www.subscribepage.com/TTDgifted>

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EverydayGracesHomeschool.com

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Lara Molettiere**

Yes! You can homeschool
your gifted child!

Resources to help you on
your journey.