

## **SOME HINTS FOR PARENTS:**

1. He is a child first and gifted second. A five-year-old may be able to solve mathematical problems worth bragging about to the grandparents, but he has only lived five years. Only behavior appropriate for a five-year-old should be expected of him.
2. Don't compare your gifted child with other children. That places on the gifted one the responsibility to live up to that image all the time, and it certainly is no fun for whoever comes off second best. All children are unique and special in their very own ways.
3. Listen to your gifted child. Dinner may be about to burn and the telephone ringing, but LISTEN, because the question may be important. If ignored, the curiosity to ask may disappear. The one thing we can all give our children is our undivided attention...at least most of the time.
4. It is a great big wonderful world. Show it to your gifted child in the form of trips, books, interesting people, digs, symphonies, fire stations, museums, wriggly things, theater, and the magical chemistry that makes a cake rise.
5. Let her specialize early if she wants to. There are fringe benefits to living with dinosaurs: they may be learning to do research, knowing how to keep notes and records, and discovering the Dewey Decimal system together with Tyrannosaurus Rex.
6. Children don't have to be gainfully employed every waking minute. There should be time to daydream, to be silly and do baby things, and to lie on an unmade bed to contemplate the ceiling. Gifted children are often creative children, and it is difficult to be creative on schedule.
7. Praise your gifted child for his efforts. Praise him for the wonderful things he does, and if his great experiment does not work out as hoped, praise him for trying. Inquiring minds must take intellectual risks, and risk-taking needs to be encouraged and supported.
8. Discipline is necessary for harmonious family life and comes in the same shape for all brothers and sisters, whether gifted, curly-headed or slowpoke. Giftedness is no excuse for unacceptable behavior.
9. Don't expect your gifted child to live up to your unfulfilled aspirations. You may dream of "my son, the doctor," but he may have other heroes.
10. Let her do for herself what she says she can, because she probably knows. If her judgment is faulty, that is learning, too. Gifted children are often future leaders who thrive on early responsibility.
11. Encourage originality. Help them do their own thing and praise them for producing "the only one in the whole world" even if you don't know which end to paste "up" on the refrigerator. Develop pride in original and creative work.
12. Remember that the fine line between encouraging and pushing may make the difference between a happy and productive youngster and an unfulfilled underachieving child.
13. Realize that there are times to reach out a helping hand and times to get out of the way. Knowing the difference makes you a very gifted parent.

14. Parents of gifted children are people too. They need help and guidance in understanding and appreciating the special needs of their gifted children without feeling inferior or jealous. Hostile feelings may lead to over protection, domination, or exploitation.
15. Enjoy! Of all the problems children could have, giftedness surely is the best one. Gifted children are curious, enthusiastic, excited about new things, and able to communicate early. Take vitamins for stamina and enjoy!

From Judith Roseberry's presentation