

## Ten Things All Parents of Gifted Children Should Know

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1. Children need very gradual empowerment with increasing choices, freedom, power and responsibilities (V of love) as they mature. Although gifted children sometimes seem adult-like, giving them too much power and too many choices early can cause them to believe they should make their own decisions too soon without adult guidance.
2. Gifted children are children first, and only secondly gifted. They need parental limits and guidance.
3. Praise words set expectations for children. Too high praise may cause pressure. Continual negative comments cause children to be unmotivated and have low expectations for themselves.
4. Children learn through play. Parents who love learning with children, including reading, educational toys, playing games, building activities, creativity, exploring nature, science, and numbers encourage children's interests and curiosity.
5. Parents should be respectful advocates for their gifted children's special needs in school.
6. Respect for other adults, including other parents, grandparents and teachers, encourages children to learn from these adults.
7. Parents are role models for their children. Their attitudes toward work, learning and life strongly influence their children. Good family relationships, including family fun together, are protective for children throughout childhood and adolescence. Children with good family relationships are less likely to feel pressured about appearance and popularity, and less likely to get involved in alcohol, drugs and promiscuous sex.
8. Work projects with an adult teach perseverance and a valuable work ethic.
9. Gifted children need healthy involvement in activities and reasonable limits for media and technology.
10. Children are not always evenly gifted. Although they may learn easily in some areas, they may struggle in others