



PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Does A Gifted Child Have Special Psychological Needs?

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A gifted child may or may not be a good student, polite, or popular. The gifted child has an exceptionally high level of understanding and problem-solving skills, and usually a good command of language. Sometimes this child is very creative, talented, or skilled as a leader.

Some gifted children adjust well to school and social life. Others do not. These others may sense they are “different” and may not be able to cope with it emotionally, leaving them frustrated. Out of frustration, they defy parents and teachers, stubbornly pursue their advanced interests at the expense of the usual school or peer group activities, and may even show off inappropriately. They can become troublemakers and troubled children.

Gifted children need help to accept their abilities *and* areas in which they are average, to channel their skills into challenging but appropriate activities, and to learn to respect others.

Talk to someone who can help. If you would like the name of a qualified psychologist in your area, please try our Psychologist Locator.