

Center for Talent Development

<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/resources/bibliography/parentinggifted.html>

Chapters/Indigo: recommended in *Trusted Advisors Program*

<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/item.asp?Item=978091070766&Catalog=Books&Ntt=being+smart+about+gifted+children&N=35&Lang=en&Section=books&zxac=1>

Hoagies Gifted Education

Being Smart is on both of the Hoagies Top 25 lists, the list for parents, and the one for teachers:

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

Parentbooks

<http://www.parentbooks.ca/>

About Education

<http://specialed.about.com/od/giftedness/tp/gift.htm>

Being Smart about Gifted Children High on my list! This is the first book you should buy if you have a gifted child. Lots of practical information, suggestions, characteristics of giftedness and much more. This book was written in 2005 and is one you'll refer to more than once!

Duke Gifted Letter

"Challenging the belief that programs for gifted children are elitist, *Being Smart about Gifted Children* by Dona Matthews, Ph.D. and Joanne Foster, Ed.D. (Great Potential Press, 2005) shows that providing appropriate educational experiences for children of high ability is the right thing to do. The book gives parents and educators practical strategies for developing children's natural abilities. Visit www.giftedbooks.com to learn more about this valuable resource."

[amazon.com](#) reviews

The first gifted book you should read!, January 28, 2006 Reviewer: Carolyn K. "Mrs. Hoagie" (Hoagies' Gifted Education Page) - *Being Smart* is a great introduction to giftedness, for the parent, teacher, even administrator, those who are brand new, and those who think they "know all about gifted children." Dispelling myths and answering questions along the way, Matthews and Foster step us through giftedness from identification to education, and into social / emotional. How to answer the tricky questions, how to support gifted kids in today's egalitarian world, and what to tell the kids along the way - *Being Smart* covers it all. All the while, they meet their goal: share details on how we, parents and educators, can meet the gifted child's educational and social / emotional needs. Much more than just an introduction, *Being Smart* should be in every gifted book collection..."The new classic must-read book for parents and teachers!"

Educators' Reviews

Mike Bergsgaard, Director of Enrichment and Talent Development, University of Winnipeg

What a Legacy! I think my natural inclination is to write in superlatives, as did my mother, and to write too much, as did Dickens...a couple of people to whom I was introduced at an early age who both left an impression. I'm going to resist that inclination in "reviewing" *Being Smart* by saying simply that it is a book that needed to be written and now needs to be read. Toward that end, since receiving a copy last week, I have recommended it to three local parents seeking counsel about their children, and I've also encouraged the instructor teaching our Gifted Ed. course next fall to have a look at it. I described it to him by observing that, "in every instance, where I thought the book omitted something of importance, the authors eventually got to the matter and when they did, they did it well." You even thought to include names other than the conventional Anglo-Saxon monikers that dominate in most vignettes and anecdotes. I'm sure Dona and you have received many well-deserved accolades, and you are quite right to feel proud of what you accomplish with the work. Thanks for insuring that we received a copy of *Being Smart*; more importantly thanks for the very significant contribution you have made in writing what you can

justly describe as a *Guidebook for Parents and Educators*...as one of millions who grew up in a less-enlightened era, I think we have an even greater appreciation for what school, life and the world could have been like with the advantage of the insights, wisdom and guidance you and Dona offer the current generation of children, as well as parents and educators.

S. Collin; Secondary School Teacher - Toronto

Being Smart is a veritable goldmine of insights on bright kids. Foster and Matthews offer a rich collection of perspectives on gifted children and gifted education. It is a must-read for parents and professionals committed to enhancing the scope of gifted education, and it is a critical point of reference for educators wanting to address the individual learning needs of smart students. *Being Smart* provides us with a needed consideration for the myriad of complexities facing gifted kids in our classrooms.

Matthews' and Foster's text is smart work. Bravo!

Dr. Frank C. Worrell, University of California-Berkeley, discussant, Processes and Issues in Gifted Education; American Education Research Association conference, April 12, 2005; Montreal, Canada

"I like Dr. Matthews' and Dr. Foster's mystery/mastery conceptualization. They are ahead of the field, and I hope they pull the field along with them."

Marcia Garries - Department Head - Gifted Programs & Services - School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

"*Being Smart* is a very good read and I have already used it as a reference in several of my workshops. As for promotions, I know we have been talking about the book in our Lower Mainland Gifted Contacts circle...also I have put it on the list for parents to pick up."

L. Iannarilli - Teacher, and parent of gifted adolescents

I just wanted to say that I have read *Being Smart* and you should both be bursting with pride over this accomplishment. It's a fine book and a great resource for educators, parents, and students as well. My daughters are currently reading through sections of interest to them and finding it interesting and enlightening. There is a teacher at my school who just placed her son in a grade one gifted class and sought my parental advice... I showed her the book, she skimmed it, and now she's anxious to buy a copy..... so are all her friends/moms in the gifted class. I've also been talking about it within my own parent circle. There is a great deal of interest "on the street" so I hope it's well promoted and distributed."

Parents' Reviews

Chuck Preston, father of two gifted children

"I am reading '*Being Smart*'. Great book. By approaching the subject from both the educator's and parent's perspectives, it offers insight into working together to meet the child's needs. An excellent resource."

Mary Lynn Trotter M.S.W., Clinical Social Worker, Toronto, Canada

What a great contribution to the literature! *Being Smart about Gifted Children* is both a catchy title and a good investment for anyone working or living with bright children. This is a reasonably priced text aimed at both parents and professionals working with advanced learners. It has a good blend of real life examples and academic research to help improve our understanding of what these children need. It will help me with the clients I serve, and in raising my own child.

Website Recognition

A small sampling of places outside of our own neighborhoods of Toronto and New York where *Being Smart* has been recognized as a valuable resource... (Short and sweet but coast to coast...)

Oregon: Intellectually Gifted, Academically Talented - Issues and Opportunities - Oregon Community Foundation - Sept. 2005

Utah: Gate Source (Gifted and Talented Education) - Education Resources for Parents of Gifted Children, Salt Lake City, Utah - 2005

Montana: The Center for Creative Learning, Rockwood Gifted Program - Ellisville, Montana - Nov./Dec. 2005

British Columbia: The Lower Mainland Gifted Organization- Gifted Education Coordinators and Specialists in the region of Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley in British Columbia, Canada.

Virginia: Fairfax County Public Schools - Virginia

New Jersey Association for Gifted Children

Being Smart about Gifted Children is designed for parents and educators. The authors describe ways to develop children's natural abilities and present practical strategies to help parents and educators identify and nurture the abilities of children with high abilities.

Readers may learn more about, and, hopefully, better understand, many of the complexities of gifted development to enable them to make informed decisions with and for the children and adolescents in their lives. Although the book is designed primarily for parents and teachers, it will certainly be of interest to other professionals including teacher educators, school counselors, psychologists, administrators and policy makers. It is full of valuable information for those who seek to better understand gifted children, educational programs for gifted children, and testing.

Matthews and Foster introduce the "mystery" and "mastery" models of gifted education for our consideration and challenge several commonly held assumptions about identification. The unique characteristics of the gifted and the fact that such children are "not a homogeneous population" are emphasized. The authors suggest that giftedness is a highly diverse phenomenon that is not easily measured or recognized.

They offer alternative approaches to gifted programming, ideas about teacher development strategies, and advice about advocacy. The authors focus on evidence-based understandings of high level development and challenge much of the conventional thinking about gifted education.

They have included only those policies and practices which are "solidly grounded theoretically and/or empirically", a sorely needed approach in education. *Being Smart about Gifted Children* is a welcome combination of current research and readable format.

Areas addressed in the book are creativity and giftedness, testing, identification, labeling issues, classroom adaptations, program options, motivation, emotional, social and behavioral concerns, young gifted children, adolescence, counseling, parent strategies, sibling relationships, gifted adolescents, advocacy, helping school meet children's needs, gifted education trends and teacher development, (Dynamic Scaffolding Model). Their consulting model of dynamic scaffolding is an exciting approach to staff development.

Test interpretation, assessments for young children, and information on psycho-educational assessment reports are provided very thoroughly in the appendix. The authors give us a comprehensive discussion of testing, assessment and identification which is thought provoking. They don't give easy formulas or recipes but provide, excellently, through evidence and experience, practical strategies for working with our gifted children. Their chapter "Adaptations: The Gifted Learner in the Regular Classroom" is a gem replete with resources, ideas, realistic strategies, action research vignettes from educators, children, and parents. Website resources are strategically embedded in every chapter as points are made so the reader doesn't have to search for them.

The authors offer many ideas for motivating high ability learners which are directed at teachers but can be adapted for use at home by parents. Wonderful quotes may be found at the beginning of each chapter and throughout the book from experts in education, philosophers, parents, teachers, administrators and kids. In addition, there are many real voices of children and adults in the vignettes included in every chapter.

Here is a book that truly extends the 3 R's. It is rich, real, readable, respectful, researched, refreshing - an excellent resource - a valuable reference. It is written with professional honesty and respect for children, their parents and educators.

You would be smart to get this book and use it. It would be a great gift to give yourself but an even greater gift for your children. Full of valuable information for those who want to understand gifted learners, *Being Smart about Gifted Children* is designed as a guidebook. You couldn't wish for a better route.

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Readers may learn more about, and, hopefully, better understand, many of the complexities of gifted development to enable them to make informed decisions with and for the children and adolescents in their lives. Although the book is designed primarily for parents and teachers, it will certainly be of interest to other professionals including teacher educators, school counselors, psychologists, administrators and policy makers. It is full of valuable information for those who seek to better understand gifted children, educational programs for gifted children, and testing.

Dr. Matthews holds degrees in Counseling and Psychology and Special Education (Gifted) from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Currently she is Director of the Hunter College Center for Gifted Studies and Associate Professor of Special Education, Hunter College, City University of New York. Dr. Foster holds degrees in Special Education and Human Development from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Currently she teaches Educational Psychology as well as Gifted Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, and is the Gifted Education Consultant for a large school board in Toronto. Both have teaching and consulting experience, were coordinators of programs for gifted children, and have written and spoken extensively throughout Canada and the U.S.

Reviewed by Dr. Gloria Cohen, NJAGC Trustee Feb 20, 2006

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