



Being Smart about Gifted Children

A Guidebook for Parents and Educators

by Dona J. Matthews and Joanne F. Foster

Written by Ontario educators, this book addresses one of the most misunderstood and under-served groups in our schools.

Teachers have the daunting task of meeting the needs of diverse students, implementing individual education plans and modifying curriculum so that all their students thrive. Without a challenging curriculum, gifted students can become bored and inattentive. They may also be misdiagnosed with hyperactivity or attention deficit disorder. Gifted students who fall through the cracks may be at risk of dropping out of school. But because gifted programs are seen as elitist, this group is often ignored. *Being Smart about Gifted Children* advocates for gifted children by presenting current research and practical solutions for identifying and teaching these students.

Chapter ten discusses motivation in self-directed learners: “Parents and teachers of gifted children should realize that highly capable learners do not automatically get high marks on their report cards.” Low grades may reflect the disengagement of a self-directed learner in a boring classroom environment.

The authors present “no single formula for living or working with gifted children,” but offer readers “some perspectives and understandings that can help us make good and informed decisions, and find ways to make a difference so that children experience their world as an engaging place in which to live, laugh, and learn.”

This is a valuable resource for any person involved in the education of gifted children.

→ *Being Smart about Gifted Children*, Great Potential Press, Scottsdale, Arizona, 2005, ISBN 0-910707-66-9, softcover, 408 pages, \$37.95, Reviewed by **Kerry-Lee Finkle**, who is a program officer at the Ontario College of Teachers.
