

Mostly Do's (and a few Don'ts) about Gifted Children

- DO be aware of myths and your personal beliefs about gifted children.
- DO talk about "being gifted" and what it means to your child.
- DO help them identify and accept their talents and strengths as well as their weaknesses.
- DO provide learning experiences by allowing natural consequences.
- DO listen to gifted children.
- DO challenge your students and provide encouragement.
- DO encourage intellectual risk-taking.
- DO make "failure" acceptable in certain situations to help combat perfectionism.
- DO value uniqueness.
- DO communicate acceptance.
- DO foster healthy competition.
- DO model what you want.
- DON'T use a child's ability to point out shortcomings (e.g., "You're so smart, why can't you...?").
- DON'T expect a gifted child to be gifted in all subjects and make all A's all of the time.
- DON'T use sarcasm with young gifted children (even those that use it) because they may not understand it as such.

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