

Relationships



Navigating Relationships

While it is true that many gifted children do very well both academically and socially, it is important to remember that giftedness can bring with it its own set of social-emotional challenges that require understanding and ongoing support from adults.

- ✗ Friendship Challenges
- ✗ Peer Pressure
- ✗ Developing “Friend Smarts”
- ✗ Resources

[The Social and Emotional Development of Gifted Children:](#)

[What Do We Know?](#)



Friendship Challenges

- ✗ Studies have found that gifted children prefer the companionship of older children or other gifted age-peers.
- ✗ Research has also shown that the most exceptionally gifted students have the most difficult time fitting in and making friends.
- ✗ It's ok to have a small group of friends that are trustworthy, encouraging, and supportive of your child.
- ✗ Clustering gifted children in one homeroom is a school based intervention designed to address friendship challenges.

[The Cluster Grouping Handbook](#)



Peer Pressure

Gifted children themselves identify problems with social acceptance and feeling valued for their opinions, difficulties with social skills and dealing with being picked on by age peers.

- ✗ Social asynchrony
- ✗ Social and Cognitive Development Discrepancies
- ✗ Are the Behaviors Appropriate?

[Highly Gifted Children and Peer Relationships](#)



Developing “Friend Smarts”

- ✗ With guidance gifted kids can use their problem-solving skills to figure out social situations and resolve social challenges.
- ✗ For some children, it might be helpful to explain that there are specific parts of our brain that are responsible for understanding and maintaining successful social interactions.
- ✗ Specific social skills can be taught and practiced:
 - entering into a conversation
 - listening attentively
 - showing understanding and compassion
 - compromising

[You are a Social Detective!](#)



Resources

[A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children](#) by James Webb, Janet Gore, Edward Amend, and Arlene DeVries

Raising a gifted child is both a joy and a challenge, yet parents of gifted children have few resources for reliable parenting information. The four authors, who have decades of professional experience with gifted children and their families, provide practical guidance in areas such as: Characteristics of gifted children, peer relations, sibling issues, motivation and underachievement, discipline issues, intensity and stress, depression and unhappiness, educational planning, parenting concerns, finding professional help, and more.



The background of the slide is a light gray surface with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint pencil strokes. Numerous sharpened colored pencils in various colors (red, purple, blue, teal, green, yellow, orange) are arranged around the perimeter of the slide, pointing towards the center. A small number '7' is visible in the top right corner.

BFA Gifted and Talented Website
