

Why should I have my child tested?

When is the child too young / too old for testing? The recommended ages to test for giftedness are 4-8. Giftedness can be observed in the first three years by rapid progression through the developmental milestones. These milestones should be documented and taken seriously as evidence of giftedness. Early identification of advanced development is essential and early intervention promotes optimal development. Negative effects, such as underachievement and withdrawal, can start in the early elementary years in gifted children. The gifted child may realize that they are different, perhaps think that different is bad, or find different to be less socially acceptable in school, so they go into hiding. For some (often girls) this is a permanent condition; others can't take the hiding any more at some point in later schooling, and explode in frustration. Early identification is key to proper social and academic placement for the gifted child.

The information gained from testing can be valuable. It's useful to know where your child stands and the information can better help your child's teacher meet their individual needs. Behavior problems in preschool or early elementary school are often a trigger that sends parents of gifted kids to testing. This is a difficult period for the gifted child, and it seems that the more gifted, the more difficult. Gifted testing can offer more understanding to the family, and a more complete picture of the child, thus explaining his frustration, or lack of fit, in his current situation.

For gifted students, achieving an A is not the goal. The real purpose of education is to learn new information. Students who achieve A's based on what they have already learned are gaining daily practice in underachievement. All students have the right to struggle. Struggling is essential to growth. It means that the student is stretching to attain new power in learning. Gifted students actually enjoy struggling to master new material—if they haven't been so pruned into grade-getters that they are afraid of a challenge. Girls, in particular, are at risk for shunning challenges in favor of performing perfectly what they already know.

Your Rights

You have the right to say no to testing. Though there are many benefits to testing, you have the right to say no to having your child tested.