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Parent 2 Parent: Mislabeled Brilliance In Children

Did you know gifted children often struggle in school? In this Parent 2 Parent report, authors of a new book say the signs of brilliance aren't always what you might think.

Could the child that acts up in school grow up to discover the cure for cancer? Maybe.

Author Brock Eide, M.D. says, "One of the important things to understand about early signs of giftedness is a lot of times, they can look like problems."

Husband and wife team Frenette and Brock Eide wrote the book, "The Mislabeled Child." They say gifted children are often misdiagnosed as having attention deficit disorder, but instead of having problems learning, gifted children tend to soak it all in.

"Are they really learning about all the things their attention wanders do? If so, it may be a sign of giftedness," says Dr. Brock.

Other signs of a gifted child:

A vivid imagination

An excellent memory

Questions authority

And may prefer the company of older children and adults.

And gifted children have different learning styles:

For instance some like to cover many subject areas

While others are very intense about one topic at a time.

"They really do have a lot of different styles and different paces of learning and in a mismatched situation, they can have trouble," says Frenette.

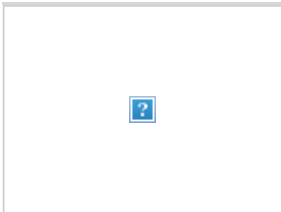
Trouble, because educators may not always recognize the child's gift, which is why the Eides say it's up to parents to find ways at school and home to help gifted kids reach their potential. And perhaps most important, the Eides say if you do have a gifted child, avoid the temptation to feed them information, and instead, let them find new answers.

Dr. Brock says, "It's important for these kids to turn their vision out and see what's not known and see what questions are there that remain to be answered because that's where they're going to make their big contribution in life."

The book explores the learning styles of many kids, from gifted to learning disabled.

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