

Reaching Out to the Questing Gifted Child

Information from "Why Am I Here? What Makes the World So Unfair?" by Dr. Joan Franklin Smutney originally published in *Parenting for High Potential* December 2006
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The “Questing” Gifted Child

The following list is intended to aid parents in recognizing the quest of their own children. While not all gifted young people engage in such a quest – searching and probing complex issues in great depth – many highly sensitive and intuitive learners do. They have a tendency to be -

The “Questing” Gifted Child

- Interested in philosophical questions far in advance of others their age
- Paralyzed by the intensity of their feelings in the presence of injustice, cruelty, or self-centeredness
- Inspired by a sense of the wholeness of life (encompassing all beings and the universe) and feeling part of this large whole
- Subject to an acute sense of vulnerability in the world due to feeling “different” from peers and to difficult experiences in school

The “Questing” Gifted Child

- Profoundly affected by daily experience and inclined to plumb its meaning to the depths
- Possessed of a highly developed moral understanding and strong convictions about fundamental principles (such as right to a fair trial)
- Acutely intuitive about human and animal behavior
- Deeply drawn toward the creative, artistic, and the imaginative

The “Questing” Gifted Child

- Interested in unexplained phenomena – UFOs, telepathic abilities, near-death-experiences, or visions of the future
- Highly sensitive and compassionate toward others, particularly toward those who are mistreated, troubled, or unhappy
- Able to take strong, courageous stands about ethical issues based on well-reasoned arguments for doing so and in spite of opposition.

For Parent: A Window for the “Questing” Mind

- Express an empathy with/openness to/understanding of their inner searches and struggles.
- Be open and comfortable in discussing complex moral or metaphysical questions they ask.
- Help them achieve a sense of purpose.
- Bear witness to acts of bravery and resiliency of spirit.
- Celebrate curiosity and discovery.
- Give them mentors, teachers, coaches who are respectful of their unique sensibilities.