

Who Are These Twice-Exceptional Kids Anyway? Empowering Your Kid When School Doesn't Get Them

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"Giftedness thrives on kinesthetic, self-led, interest-based learning, and insatiable curiosity—even if it means pushing back and arguing."

The "Parent pivot" technique

You come to the world with your own perspective, and rather than focusing on how difficult the child might be making your life right now, **consider how hard they're trying**. They do not want to be the 'bad' child. They do not want to upset you. Fear-based parenting, such as 'do this or else,' only goes so far and, at the very least, completely sabotages your relationship with your child.

To get your kid to cooperate, use the "parent pivot" or "teacher twist" technique. So, instead of saying, 'do this,' say, 'why don't you do this?' Rather than solving problems for them, lead them to solutions. For example, instead of saying "Why is there an egg on the floor?" say, "Oh, there's an egg on the floor!" They'll first notice it and then ask, "I wonder what might be the best way to clean that up?"

Next, separate responsibilities from expectations. Cleaning the room is the responsibility, but expectations are in the details (like picking up LEGOs). Kids might not see it that way, so be clear and ask them to explain what "cleaning" means to them. This helps them understand and meet your expectations.

Gifted kids in the classroom

Teachers should **lean into the kids' strengths, passions and interests**. They should sit down and ask the child what they love, what they hate, what's interesting, what's their favourite book? What are the things they love to do when they're not doing something they're supposed to do? You want to learn who that person is and then use that information to help them gain joy in the classroom.

So let's say there's a kid who is a really amazing reader but can't write. Well, you're going to lean into having them illustrate rather than write at first because writing is all about executive functioning and organising thoughts. So if the child is an excellent artist and they're able to express themselves in that way, you're actually teaching them to write as they're illustrating what they want to say.