



Science

Gifted children are intensely curious about why things are the way they are. Their questions can range from the innocuous--"Why is the sky blue?" to the thorny--"Why is that man homeless?" And they're looking for meaty answers. "As a parent, you're just not prepared to answer ethical

questions that are being asked to you by a 7- or 8-year-old," says Dr. James T. Webb, co-author of *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*. "And then later, they search so much for meaning and truth." So parents of precocious tweens, beware: It may get worse before it gets better.

Technology

Got an in-house computer whiz? Gifted children may learn new software without formal training, and they demonstrate a wide range of technology skills. Dr. Barbara Klein, author of *Raising Gifted Kids: Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Exceptional Child Thrive*,

remembers a child who took apart radios in his spare time. "Their perceptual organization is very advanced," she says. "They may be fascinated by that, and not as fascinated by learning to read." A bonus: Gifted children also tend to help others with technology-related problems.

Mathematics

Some gifted children will tackle challenging math problems in or outside the classroom. Others enjoy doing puzzles, games and logic problems in their spare time. Still others can deftly solve problems without using paper and pencil. "The profoundly gifted kids started doing algebra before kindergarten," says Dr. Amend.

"But one of the things that is difficult for parents to recognize is that there are different levels of giftedness." Kids who simply show a keen interest in numbers and how they relate to each other--for example, how 36 and 63 contain the same digits but signify different amounts--may also be gifted in this area.



Art, Music and Drama

Artistic activities appeal to gifted children, who can express themselves on a canvas, in an original composition or during a skit. They may recall melodies, tell vivid stories or imitate others. "They need to have those kinds of artistic or musical or dramatic outlets, or else

they won't be happy," says Dr. Barbara Klein, author of *Raising Gifted Kids: Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Exceptional Child Thrive*. "They are very emotionally intense children and they need an outlet to express themselves."