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## CHAPTER TWO

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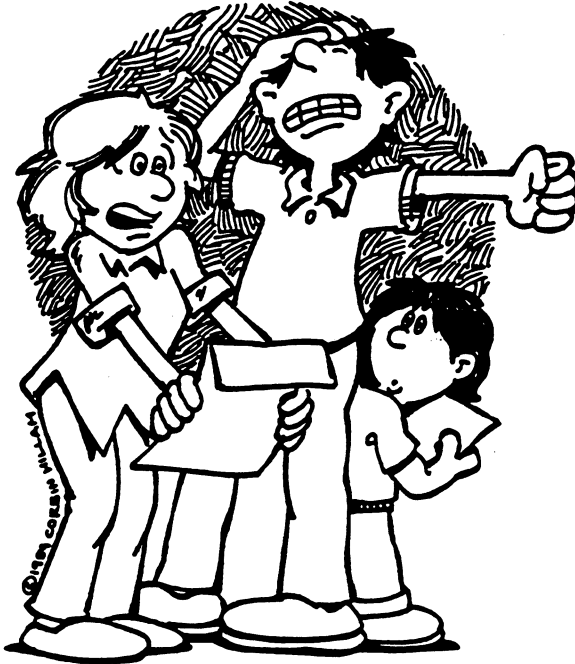
# INFORMED PARENTING

“My child was different  
than the other kids on our block. . . .”

So you have a gifted child. What now? Acquiring this knowledge often causes panic in the hearts and minds of otherwise sane, intelligent, stable parents.

Most of us were unprepared to be parents. We fought our way through each stage of development, trying our best to do the “right” things, yet fully aware that many of our decisions wouldn’t win us a nomination for the “Parent of the Year Award!” Our only prayer was/is that the negative decisions we’ve made will be overshadowed by the positives.

For some parents, the knowledge that they have a child that doesn’t function like other “normal” children, and is in fact considered “gifted,” comes as a great shock! For others, it’s something they perhaps suspected but never attached a label to. Having this knowledge is not as important as what you do with it.



OH NO, NOT GIFTED!  
WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?!?

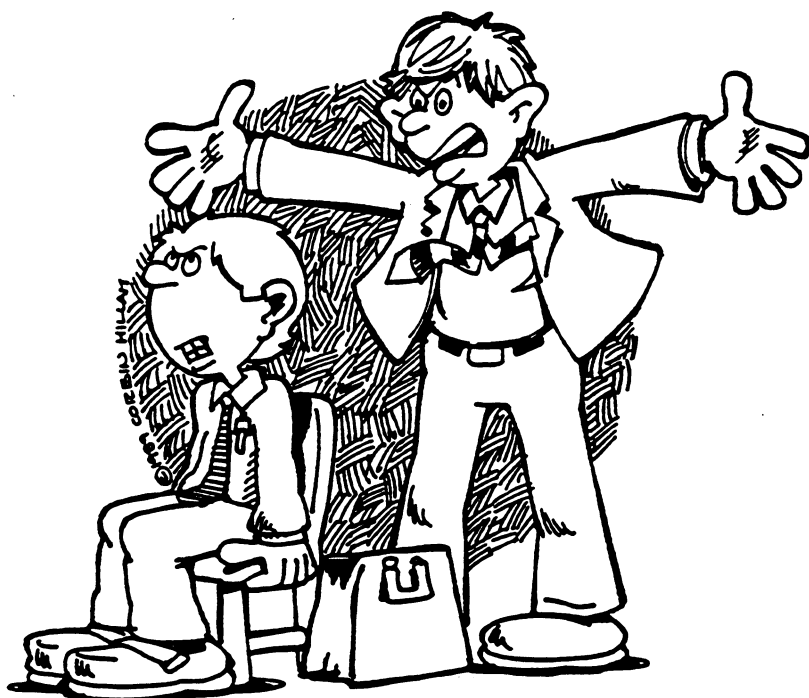


## OUR GIFTED PROGRAM

20 Parents' Guide

that your child is bored, without offending him or her. If you were a teacher and a parent complained to you that his child is bored, how would that make you feel? What underlying message would you get? Wouldn't you feel the parent is in effect implying you do not know how to teach the smartest kids in your class? That you were in effect, incompetent? No one likes to be told that he or she is not doing his or her job. Act diplomatically.

It is important for you, as parents, to understand that one of the biggest myths about the gifted is that they are the easiest to teach, that they will "get it" anyway. After all, the gifted are the ones that finish their work first, love to clean shelves, correct papers, and help the slow learners, aren't they? They can be, but often they are not. The challenge for you, as parents, is to figure out how to share your concerns without offending the teacher.



"MY CHILD IS BORED SILLY  
IN THIS CLASSROOM!  
THESE WORKBOOKS ARE  
A WASTE OF TIME! YOU  
CALL THIS TEACHING?  
WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR  
DEGREE?"

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## CHAPTER ONE

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# FOR TEACHERS

*"Soon....  
I am so lucky  
I will work with gifted students...."*  
Rita Price  
Being Gifted

I returned the telephone receiver to its cradle relieved that I had found a replacement for my class. Her credentials couldn't have been better— an-award winning, highly competent, well-trained, teacher of the gifted. Then why did she react that way? Why did I have to talk her into it? I didn't ask her to teach the whole series, just the first class.



PARENTS !!! YOU WANT ME TO TEACH PARENTS ???