

# SUPPORTING THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF GIFTED KIDS

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MEGHAN BARLOW  
AND ASSOCIATES  
TURNING CHALLENGES INTO GROWTH

# WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

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- Remember those overexcitabilities? (Dabrowski)
  - Get reallllly into what they're into
  - Tend to be pretty specific and exact
  - Want to finish activities they are committed to
  - Have very visceral memories
  - Might be operating on “another level”
  - Verbal abilities (can come across as pedantic)

# WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

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- Sensitive and emotional
- Logical, analytical, no-nonsense, goal-directed
- They have really good ideas...so what's wrong with that?
- Highly perceptive and intuitive
- Internal worlds are incredibly rewarding
- See things differently, do things differently
- High energy

# AND SOMETIMES

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- They try what has worked with certain adults
- They push people away (It's better for me to make you feel bad than for you to make me feel bad)

# IS IT ME?

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- Awareness that I don't fit...what's wrong with me?
- What "level" am I on, anyway?



# WHO ARE MY PEOPLE?

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- Intellectual peers, emotional peers, physical peers
- People who get me
- People who enjoy being around me

Think for a second about your feelings when you tell someone your child is “gifted.”

Embarrassed?

Proud?

Does it “matter” to you?



Think for a second about other people's reactions to hearing that someone is "gifted."

"Not so smart now, eh?"

Such a bragger.

If he's so gifted, he *should*...





# PEOPLE WHO ENJOY BEING AROUND ME

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- People who accept me (and appreciate me) for who I am
- People who listen to me
- People who choose to be around me

# FITTING IN

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- Is it my problem or does it bother my child?
- Give perspective
- Put them to work in and out of the home
- Help them find a purpose

SHOULD I FIND GIFTED PEERS?

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Maybe. But that's not all.

# A COMMITTEE OF LOOSELY DEFINED PEERS

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- Part of you fits in lots of different places and with lots of people
- 1 person probably won't satisfy all needs
- Get creative, look around (and don't forget who you can't see)

# SKILLS TO CONSIDER

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- Perspective taking/Reading the room
- Social repairs
- Frustration tolerance
- Compartmentalizing/teach person, place, time
- Leadership vs. bossiness – appeal to pursuit of facts
- Recovery



# RESOURCES

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- Connecting for Kids
- Meghan Barlow and Associates
  - Assessments, individual, family, group therapy
  - Website, newsletter, Facebook
  - Upcoming book club for kids 9-12