



Gifted Girls

According to research, gifted girls from all ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds are living an invisible life in classrooms across the nation.

By:

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Gifted Girls

Gifted Girls are born with the same capabilities as boys. They score the same on tests (sometimes even higher – in the early years) They start school self-assured and ready to take on the world. Somewhere after adolescence, they lose that confidence and feel the need to camouflage their intelligence.

Social/Emotional Issues

- Gifted girls deal with social pressures at school because they are often treated differently from their peers. As a result, they will hide or alter their abilities just to be accepted and have friends.
- Sometimes gifted girls are unaware that they are gifted and may feel strange or think that something is wrong with them.
- Some of the issues are age related and change at different times in a Girl's life. They may show up after adolescence and after college. Interestingly, there is more acceptance during high school.



Causes/Effects Facing Girls Today

Causes

- Girls want social acceptance
- Girls receive mixed messages
- Girls tend to be more family focused
- Perfectionism

Effects

- They hide their ability or focus on developing socially
- They grow up questioning or doubting their abilities.
- Their potential talent may never develop fully
- Setting unreasonable goals (career/family/friends)

Implications of Issues For: Students, Teachers, Parents, Others

- Importance of parents' attitudes and beliefs about the academic self-perceptions and achievement do hold implications for the student's self concept.
- Research states that teachers have been found to believe and reinforce one of the most prevalent sex stereotypes- that males have more innate ability, while females must work harder. The implication is that we are possibly losing a huge contribution to society due to undeveloped talent.
- A gifted girl must be given the necessary support so that she has the confidence to excel and grow her talent.



Ten Tips to Help Today's Girls

1. Be a coach, not a judge
2. Emphasize substance over appearance
3. Have high expectations for both girls and boys
4. Foster healthy competition
5. Turn down pressure to be social
6. Involve girls in all-girl activities
7. Learn from the success of others
8. Spread the wealth (tips for parents)
9. Hit the road
10. Set a good example