

### A Few Tips

- › Answer children's questions as open as possible.
- › Dare to deviate from the age norms, like when choosing toys or considering friends for children.
- › Accommodate children's strong appetite for learning.
- › Recognize children's opinions and explain why you are making certain choices. Be consistent when setting rules and explain them.
- › Give children responsibility and room to fulfill it independently when possible.
- › Instill trust in children's own capabilities, even if children do not initially succeed. This allows them to feel competent.
- › Emphasize children's capability to grow in everything children do.
- › Provide feedback and compliments about the effort they put in, not about their cleverness or speed.
- › Do not solve too much for children, it does not help in becoming resilient
- › Be open to emotional expressions from children, even if the observed behavior seems over-the-top in your eyes. Do not disapprove of their emotional expression, but instead help them to learn to regulate their own emotions.



### Expert Group Advanced Development

The Expert Group is a training, advice and product development organization. It produces materials that help to recognize and support advanced development in young children.

[www.expertgroepontwikkelingsvoorsprong.nl/eng.html](http://www.expertgroepontwikkelingsvoorsprong.nl/eng.html)



**Children develop in their own way and at their own speed. Some children develop faster in one or more developmental areas than their same aged peers. We call this advanced development. Often, those children appear to be gifted at a later age.**

Giftedness is accompanied by a different way of being. In this leaflet, you can read about these characteristics, the importance of early identification and the importance of good guidance in case of advanced development.

### The Significance of Screening and Guidance

Growing up with an advanced development does not ensure a happy and resilient life. The absence of appropriate guidance could result in:

- feeling misunderstood by adults and same age peers;
- feeling like an outsider;
- feeling frustrated because schoolwork or approach is a mismatch.

Those feelings might result in feeling both uncomfortable within themselves, and their environment.

In follow up, children may shut down, or hide themselves to fit in, or seek attention in a negative way. This can then result in psychosomatic symptoms, learning and/or behavior problems.

Fortunately, there are possibilities to either prevent or solve those problems. The right guidance and challenge might help your child to grow up into a well balanced child with a positive self-image.

## A Different Way of Being

A different way of being can be present and visible early in life. Children whose advanced development being factor characteristics are tackled head on have the best opportunities to grow a healthy self-image.

There are 5 different characteristics:

- Sense of Justice
- Perfectionism
- Critical Attitude
- High sensitivity
- Autonomy

The thoughts, wants and feelings of children advanced in development are intense. They're hardly ever just a bit happy, angry or sad. They can feel it in their whole being when they experience injustice or pain, or when agreements or their requirements are not met, but especially when they do not feel seen.

Through those characteristics, children advanced in development experience early on that they are in some instances different from other children. Playing together or talking with children of the same age is not the same for them. When adults are aware, they can help and thus prevent children feeling strange or alienated.



## School and Daycare

Children advanced in development need to be understood sufficiently in daycare and school. Make sure there is:

- sufficient knowledge about advanced development and giftedness;
- regular report building with parents in order to get to know the child better;
- the same approach at home and school/daycare;
- understanding and giving the child space to be different;
- chart the child's development and anticipate accordingly;
- provide an adjusted and sufficiently challenged curriculum for the child;
- communicate about and especially with the child.

## Parenting

Parenting a child advanced in development is different from the norm. Many people in your surroundings might not understand what your challenges are, resulting in a more difficult and tiring task in which you might feel alone and doubt yourself.

Therefore, it can be important for you to be well informed. It will be hard and not always desirable to adjust the world to your child. Instead you can teach your child to adapt to the world, and at the same time ask others for understanding by sharing your knowledge with them.

**Be aware** when your child's behavior changes at home, or differs from school or day care, or when you notice increasing disinterest, defiance or anger. Those are all signals of feeling misunderstood or bored. If you feel you need help, please do not wait too long!

