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GIFTEDNESS IN CHILDHOOD

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Giftedness in Childhood

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Abstract: Giftedness often is defined in a transactional way: individuals give something in return for getting something from authorities who label them as gifted; the labeling authority then expects those individuals identified as “gifted” to act in ways that justify the label. The authors place emphasis on transformational giftedness – giftedness that serves to make the world a better place. This Element stresses the importance of intelligence, not the kind of narrow intelligence measured by IQ tests and their proxies, but rather the kind of broad intelligence used to adapt to a variety of real-world environments. The authors further discuss the nature of dual exceptionality, whereby individuals may be identified as having a disability yet at the same time act in gifted ways and thereby harbor the potential to contribute to the world in some distinguished fashion.

Keywords: giftedness, transformational giftedness, transactional giftedness, adaptive intelligence, intelligence

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Contents

1	What Is Giftedness, Anyway?	1
2	Societal Fixation on IQ	3
3	A Strange Early History of the Field of Giftedness and Some Modern Notions	10
4	Giftedness Is Not a Property of Person	15
5	An Alternative View of Intelligence and Giftedness	23
6	Aspects of Giftedness	35
7	Giftedness as a Result of Adversity	39
8	Giftedness among People with Disabilities	51
	Conclusions	59
	References	61