

## **Dear Teacher, My Gifted Child is in Your Class**

Dear Teacher,

Welcome back to school. My child is so happy to be in your class this year. We know you are a wonderful and dedicated teacher and you care so much about your students. I know the beginning of school is very busy, but I wanted to tell you a little bit about my child. Although he really loves to learn, he is somewhat anxious about being back in school again.

Please don't think I am bragging, but my child is gifted and that has brought some unexpected challenges to my child and our family. I know too many people, being gifted means he will do very well in school, but that hasn't always been true for my child. I'm sure you have seen that gifted students aren't always smarter, better behaved or more mature than other students. I know my child isn't. My child is just a kid who thinks way differently, maybe ahead a few grade levels in some subjects, is a bit intense, and he sometimes struggles in school. Last year, school wasn't easy for my child for a few reasons.

He may be working a grade level or two or even three ahead of other students in some subjects, but not in all subjects. He just doesn't excel in all areas all the time. And although he may seem older than his years, he doesn't always behave like you would think he should. I'm sure you know how gifted children can be emotionally immature although they seem much older than their age—that is exactly my kid. He is just not that perfect little soldier some people expect him to be. Makes me feel like I'm parenting a child with the brain of an adult but the temperament of a toddler sometimes, lol. I hope you understand.

Also, he can be really intense in class when you are teaching one of his favorite topics. He may raise his hand often and incessantly talk about a subject he is passionate about. I'll apologize in advance because he will also likely challenge you on information or facts he feels are not quite right especially when it's a topic he is hooked on. He is not being snotty or a show-off, he is really just very excited to be learning about a subject he feels strongly about. He can be really intense which is one of those common behaviors for gifted kids. I just wanted to let you know this about his intensity so you wouldn't think he was just being a know-it-all or trying to show off. It is just that he is in his happy place when learning something he enjoys. He just gets carried away! And speaking of looking like a know-it-all, he was teased about that last year in school by some of his classmates. I know he may seem older than his age and looks like he could handle the teasing, but it hurts him A LOT. He is extremely sensitive like a lot of gifted kids and being teased is part of his fear of going back to school. His anxiety is through the roof at home because he fears being called a show-off at school and he feels like he doesn't fit in. Last year, his teacher said he often kept to himself and chose to work alone. I know as a teacher, you are incredibly busy, but could you keep an eye out for anyone teasing him or if he seems to be keeping to himself too much?

Lastly, his therapist mentioned that because of the teasing and maybe because he was bored (gosh, I hate using that word) last year in school, he is showing signs of becoming an underachiever. Please let me know if his grades start slipping. Underachievement is also common in gifted kids, especially when they are not happy or not learning challenging new things in school. That is what his therapist said. I don't think it will be because my child is lazy—he used to LOVE to learn. Ugh! Who would have ever thought that gifted children were not the perfect students most everyone thinks they are?

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand about my child and his gifted quirks. Don't hesitate to call or email me if there are any problems with my child at school. Believe me, we know very well how sensitive, emotional and intense he can be. I hope you have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Mom of a Gifted Child