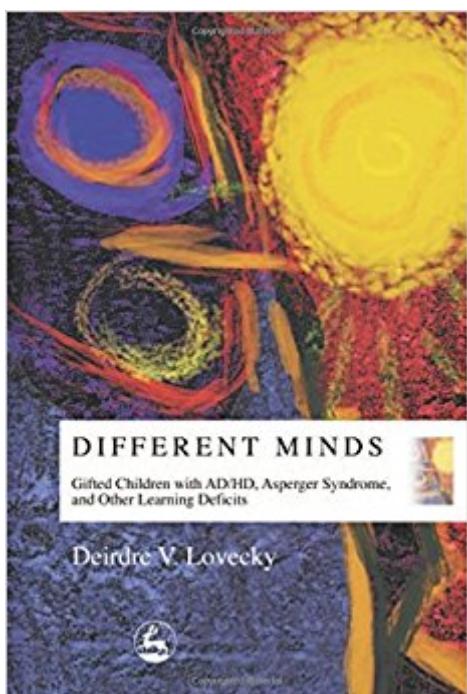


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# Different Minds: Gifted Children With AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, And Other Learning Deficits



## **Synopsis**

Through recognizing the different levels and kinds of giftedness, this book provides an insight into the challenges and benefits specific to gifted children with attention difficulties. Explaining why certain children are gifted and how giftedness is manifested, each chapter on a specific topic addresses the relevance for children with AD/HD and Asperger Syndrome. Lovecky guides parents and professionals through methods of diagnosis and advises on how best to nurture individual needs, positive behavior and relationships at home and at school. Lovecky explores concepts such as asynchrony and the effects of such 'uneven' development on children, using case studies to illustrate emotional, intellectual, creative and social development. She also highlights the inadequate measures currently in place to assist parents and teachers and goes on to clearly define what is required to understand and help these children so that their needs can be met more positively in the future. Different Minds, with its wealth of practical and background information, is essential reading for all those who live or work with gifted children with attention difficulties.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

' This is a well-structured book. There are nine chapters; the first gives an overview of gifted children and theories of giftedness. The next two chapters provide a general description of AD/HD and Asperger before going on to give detailed information on gifted children with these conditions. The following chapters look at cognitive aspects and learning styles, creativity, emotional intelligence, social cognition and moral development. The final chapters discuss issues around assessment and

highlight the resources available. The author also includes useful appendices on diagnostic criteria.'

--- Community Practitioner'In addition to case studies and research findings, Different Minds offers practical strategies and ways in which young people can be supported, both to develop their intellectual abilities and to help them feel accepted in society... This is an absorbing read crammed with observation and detail. Did you know, for instance, that difficulties with social interaction increase in line with IQ? Children with higher IQ's (180-plus) find their age peers "a mystery, because they're so different in interests, speed of learning, ability to understand complex material and desire to learn."...Different minds is a valuable addition to the information already available in this field.'

--Children Now'In addition to case studies and research findings, Different Minds offers practical strategies and ways in which young people can be supported, both to develop their intellectual abilities and to help them feel accepted in society... This is an absorbing read crammed with observation and detail. Did you know, for instance, that difficulties with social interaction increase in line with IQ? Children with higher IQ's (180-plus) find their age peers "a mystery, because they're so different in interests, speed of learning, ability to understand complex material and desire to learn."...Different minds is a valuable addition to the information already available in this field.'

--- Children Now

Different Minds is an invaluable resource for both professionals and parents. Gifted teens and adults with AS or ADHD will also benefit from reading this book. It is clearly a labor of love, and we are all lucky to have the resource available. (The Journal of AEGUS)Different Minds is a book that is highly useful for parents and professionals alike. Parents will appreciate Dr. Lovecky's detailed discussions of the challenges of gifted children with 'different minds', her clear writing style, and the wealth of useful information and practical resources she provides. Professional will find a thoughtful discussion of the intersection of AD/HD, Asperger's Syndrome and non verbal learning disabilities in gifted children, supported by a thorough review of current research. Different Minds is a book that belongs in the library of every professional who works with children with AD/HD. (Attention)'The book is the product of years of observing, assessing, and counseling gifted children in her practice at the Gifted Resource Center of New England. It resulted from the frustration of parents who needed help understanding their children. The giftedness, the uneven development, and the learning difficulties. In response, Lovecky produced a book that discusses not only the disorders, but also the issue of giftedness and how being gifted amplifies problems or ameliorates them. Parents, teachers and mental health professionals will find clear explanations and useful strategies and recommendations in the book's 500 plus pages... The first three chapters give

readers an excellent foundation in giftedness, attention deficit disorder, and Asperger Syndrome. Unlike many authors, Lovecky explores the strengths of gifted kids with these disorders as well as their weaknesses. She also looks at other disorders and learning deficits that might co-exist in these children... Different Minds, a book dense with information, makes the reader work; but it's well worth the effort. Whether you use the book as a reference to read it from cover to cover, you will come away with well researched fact to help you better understand gifted children with attention and learning deficits and many practical strategies for nurturing and teaching them'. (2e: Twice Exceptional Newsletter)Different Minds, Gifted Children with AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome and Other Learning Deficits is an excellent and highly fascinating book, which covers a very special field in child neuro-psychology and developmental paediatrics. The book has a theme that has not, to my knowledge, been much discussed in the literature. Dr Lovecky gives, from her vast experience in clinical child psychology and from her special interests in gifted children, many instructive examples from actual children in her practice and discusses their cognitive styles, strengths and difficulties. Also the discussion about the relation between NVLD and Asperger syndrome is very useful. The reference list is comprehensive and includes other important literature in the field. There is also a list of useful resource centers for parents, teachers and professionals. I will strongly recommend this book to all these groups. This book will give new insights that will considerably contribute to our understanding of children with different minds. (European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)The text is written in an easily read style with many case studies sprinkled throughout to make this complex subject matter more personal. The book doesn't offer false hopes or instant cures, but neither is it morose reading. One suggestion made seemed to be particularly pertinent - that it is very important for teachers and parents to allow harmless idiosyncrasies. After all, don't we all have these? (Gifted and Talented Magazine)The book is an excellent resource for those working with non-average learners. In particular it draws together the different but overlapping strands of these specific diagnoses, and strives to clarify the underlying academic strengths as well as the educational needs of the children. It would be particularly relevant to those working in settings where the learners' abilities and needs are broad ranging, or difficult to define. (Good Autism Practice)This is a well-structured book. There are nine chapters; the first gives an overview of gifted children and theories of giftedness. The next two chapters provide a general description of AD/HD and Asperger before going on to give detailed information on gifted children with these conditions. The following chapters look at cognitive aspects and learning styles, creativity, emotional intelligence, social cognition and moral development. The final chapters discuss issues around assessment and highlight the resources available. The author also includes useful appendices on diagnostic criteria.

(Community Practitioner) In addition to case studies and research findings, Different Minds offers practical strategies and ways in which young people can be supported, both to develop their intellectual abilities and to help them feel accepted in society... This is an absorbing read crammed with observation and detail. Did you know, for instance, that difficulties with social interaction increase in line with IQ? Children with higher IQ's (180-plus) find their age peers "a mystery, because they're so different in interests, speed of learning, ability to understand complex material and desire to learn." ... Different minds is a valuable addition to the information already available in this field. (Children Now)

I've read many, many resources on giftedness, ADHD and twice exceptional children. Most are fairly general. Different Minds is a whole different story - it is full of information, has lots of references and most importantly describes particular combinations of twice exceptionality in great detail. For example, in one section, Different Minds describes the characteristics of a gifted child with ADHD/combined type and how this child may be similar to and different from gifted children without ADHD and also how the child might be similar to and different from non-gifted children with ADHD. This profile clearly encompasses all of my son's strengths and difficulties that the book that nearly brought me to tears. My son's ADHD sometimes interferes with his giftedness being recognized and this book explains clearly how and why this happens. I think this book will help me help my son's teachers see this. As many parents of gifted children are gifted themselves, I think they will find the academic tone and density of information in this book refreshing. It isn't exactly light reading, but it is well written and very useful. One other thing, this book has sections throughout describing some of the challenges faced by gifted girls, such as being less likely to be identified and some of their social and emotional issues. I have found these sections helpful as well in understanding some of my daughter's issues. If you have a gifted child with any particular type of ADHD or AS, you need this book to help advocate for him or her.

I am so thankful to Deirdre Lovecky for writing this amazing book. It is a thorough analysis filled with insight and practical wisdom for parents and professionals. On the surface, I was worried the book would be too dry for me to get through. But I find myself turning to it time and again to help me with my 8 y.o. profoundly gifted/ADHD son. Just when I think I've got things figured out and I know how to handle him - BAM! Something else happens and we find ourselves flung into confusion. Different Minds is a go-to reference for those moments: the sticky social issues; the behavioral ups and downs; his moments of unusual, mature insight following a toddler-like tantrum. This book

makes me feel like we are less alone and gives me as a parent, a resource to turn to which supplies me with ideas for acting in my child's best interest.

Yes, Deidre Lovecky writes in an academic style. I appreciate books that don't talk down to parents, but allow us to share in the data the experts have developed without dumbing it down. If you have a gifted child, know that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. The chances are very good that you are gifted, too. If you truly have a need for the wonderful information in this book, I suspect you will have little difficulty absorbing the concepts that will help you help your child. Having encouraged parents to boldly go and read this book, I must also comment that whatever you find here that should be acknowledged and coped with by your child's teachers, school administrators, or psychologist, can be easily communicated by getting them a copy with appropriate passages marked. The book IS written professionally and for the benefit of other professionals as well as parents. I first met Dr. Lovecky 14 years ago, and I was impressed then with her insight and interest into children who were gifted and demonstrated difficulties such as ADHD, Asperger's, etc. Her depth of clinical experience and observation has enabled her to develop and share keen insights that will help any parent or professional recognize and help a gifted child with an added exceptionality.

As an intellectual who has read each and every book she can find on ADHD, I have to say that this is the most satisfying book on the subject. It truly explains what goes on in the minds of children with ADHD and other mental conditions. It was truly amazing to discover a book like this, full of real facts, after reading all the other less effective books. Instantly I could see things in my child that I had not noticed before, I was able to understand things more than ever, and it finally all started to make sense. This is the book you have to read on the subject of ADHD. No doubt about it!

Dr. Lovecky's book was a God-send for us. We thought it might provide good insights into one of our sons, who we knew was smart and has ADHD. And indeed it did, on so many of its pages! FINALLY, we found something that described him, and we had hope for breakthroughs with him! What we didn't expect was to find that the book also provided insights into our other son, who we knew was smarter than most, but who had never been diagnosed with ADHD. We found "him" also "jumping off the pages." Long story short: we got in touch with Dr. Lovecky and traveled a long way on two different trips to have each boy evaluated by her. We are so glad that we did!

I love this book so much I wrote to the author to tell her so. It's the only book I've found that offers such profound understanding of the functioning of these children. After years of reading books on gifted kids, books on ADHD, books on Learning Disorders, this is the first book that gets to the truth that 2 plus 2 doesn't equal 4: these kids don't just have the problems associated with each of these diagnoses, they have completely unique problems, and gifts, as well. My copy is underlined, highlighted, dog-eared and constantly referred to. It is an active companion to my journey with my son. This is practical, informative, intelligent and a brilliant resource for parents, teachers and professionals.

As a retired City Manager, I spend a great deal of volunteer time assisting young people in pursuit of education excellence. I ordered this book as a reference tool for use with students with Asperger, ADHD, etc. It is excellent!

Excellent reference, complete with references to all work available at the time of publication. Must have for any aspie's parent. Our copy is full of sticky notes and highlighter. I bring it to my son's EIP meetings and flip it open.

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