

Too Clever by Half

a fair deal for gifted children

Carrie Winstanley (£ 18.99) - Trentham Books Ltd (2004)

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Carrie Winstanley (ISBN 1 85856 327 5 : Price £18.99)

This book is a very worthwhile and easy read, offering a comprehensive survey of the issues raised with being involved in educating 'gifted children' and why it is necessary to make provision for these pupils.

Focussing on precociousness, under-achievement, environmental discrepancies in underachievement and the importance of provision for the gifted, the book provides a balanced view based on empirical research.

I found the pupils' responses to 'Do you think you are good at learning?' particularly interesting because they were open, frank and down to earth.

However, a recurring issue is the lack of confidence and lack of training amongst many teachers who have the day-to-day responsibility for the education of these 'gifted children'.

The book represents a good balance of research and practical application, relating specifically to the inclusion model. I was particularly interested in the programme for the highly able, Philosophy with Children, PwC, and I look forward to a further edition which may offer fuller details of this apparently promising programme.