Preface

If you are a grandparent who wants to be important in the lives of your grandchildren, this book is for you. Grandparents need to know about smart, gifted, and talented children for the same reasons that parents and teachers do. These children want adults who understand them and their learning characteristics, as well as their social and emotional needs. Grandparents can provide some of the additional social and intellectual challenge and support needed. So whether your grandchild is developmentally advanced—gifted and talented—or not, you will find valuable grandparenting tips here.

We know, too, that sometimes neighbors or friends act as grandparents to children—surrogate grandparents, if you will. Sometimes children do not have grandparents, or the grandparents are too ill or frail to be involved. Sometimes an aunt or uncle or friend of the family takes on a grandparent role. Because of this, we use the word “grandparent” to mean any adult who is significant to the child who may sometimes take on a grandparent-like role.

From our work with thousands of parents and grandparents over the last two decades, we’ve come to recognize that grandparents have an increasingly important role in families and that they are uniquely qualified to share in the joy of supporting and encouraging bright young minds, particularly those of their own grandchildren. Grandparents know first hand how challenging and exhausting parenting can be. By sharing some of the responsibility for encouraging and nurturing the child, grandparents can support what parents are already doing, and thus ease the burden on parents.

Thanks to major advances in medicine and health care, grandparents expect to stay active and live far longer these days than their own parents or grandparents. They will have more time to know their grandchildren. In addition, today’s grandparents also tend to have more resources and perhaps more leisure time than did their counterparts in previous generations. When these factors are added together, one realizes that grandparents today have the possibility of being a major influence in their grandchildren’s lives.

For more information or to order Grandparents’ Guide to Gifted Children, visit: GreatPotentialPress.com