

**Proceedings of the 13th Biennial World Conference**

**Gifted and Talented**  
A Challenge for the New Millennium

Compiled and edited by  
Barbara Clark, Ed.D

**World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**  
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## *Gifted Education: A Challenge for the New Millennium*

Proceedings from the 13th World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

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# Foreword

The 13th Biennial World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Istanbul, Turkey in August 1999 was a unique experience for all who attended. Held in a part of the world that over the previous few months had experienced open warfare some 600 miles to the northwest, and was to hold a trial for a known terrorist leader, many of the usual world conference attendees, concerned about their safety, chose not to come. While over 1,000 members had met in Seattle for the 1997 World Conference only 300 met in Istanbul. The severe drop in numbers was a most unexpected and devastating outcome for the conference planners, however, for the attendees it created one of the most intimate and productive professional interchanges of ideas and practices that had ever been experienced at such an event. Bonded by professional interests, personal concerns, and eagerness to learn new theories and practices in their chosen field, those who came together in Istanbul in 1999 will always remember the camaraderie and friendships made in such a beautiful setting.

This edition of the World Council Conference Proceedings reflect in several ways the theme of the conference "A Challenge for the New Millennium." The content of the papers presented suggested challenges in the field and possible solutions. The small number of papers that finally became available to be gathered into a proceedings offering presented a challenge of quantity. The very logistics of finding, editing, and presenting the papers given the limitations created by this unique conference was a challenge that has now been met in a way that highly reflects the information age of the new millennium. This will be the first conference proceedings delivered in the format of an electronic medium. Delivered to the conferees on an electronic CD the proceedings of the 13th Biennial World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children will be the first of what can become a resource-saving, reader-friendly format that may well set a trend for future conference publications.

To those who were there in Istanbul as these papers were given and to those who made these presentations, this compendium will serve as a reminder of a very special time. For those who can only read what is here written, it is hoped that you experience at least some of the excitement of that conference and share a bit of the wisdom that it brought to the field.

Barbara Clark, Ed.D.

Editor for the Proceedings of the 13th Biennial World Conference  
of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children,  
Istanbul, Turkey, 1999

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