
Passport Program Parent Support Module 1:

Introduction: How the experience of raising a unique learner changes us as parents

■ **Module Purpose:**

To introduce participants to each other, the facilitators, and the Passport Program. To get a sense of who parents are as individuals and as a group. To share their experience as parents of unique learners enrolled in Passport.

■ **Module Description:**

Introduction of parents, facilitator, and unique learners (not present). An overview of the gifts, challenges, and delights of unique learners. The focus on is on answering salient questions: Who are we as a group and how does the job of parenting a unique learner shape us as parents and people separate from that role? What do we know that others do not as a result of this experience?

■ **Module Content:**

1. Introduction of facilitator and participants.
2. An overview of the gifts and challenges of the typical student in Passport.
3. How to better manage the four psychological and emotional impacts of parenting the unique learner—shame, stress, anxiety, and exhaustion.
4. Conclusion: the power of the Passport community as a catalyst for learning

■ **Learning Expectations:**

1. Understanding of the essential role that parents play in the success of the unique learner in Passport.
2. Understanding of common denominators of giftedness and challenge of unique learners.
3. Awareness of the common experience of parents of unique learners and understanding of shame, stress, anxiety, and exhaustion as aspects of parents' experience.

■ **Readings and References:**

Handout 1: *The Parents' Experience*.
Passport Parent Training Modules Overview