

I am a teacher and a mother of a gifted child.

When I completed my teacher training I was not taught what “gifted” really means. I was not taught how to identify giftedness or the difference between high achievers and gifted learners.

It wasn't until I had my child identified as gifted in the extremely high range, that I really understood it.

The term gifted is frustrating because in a school sense it is referred to as the top 10-15% in any given field. However, in a clinical sense it describes the top 2% of children with high intellectual potential.

I find schools not only don't understand giftedness but they also don't know how to cater for these students.

I would love to see gifted education (especially in a clinical sense) in initial teacher training. From my experience there are many families with gifted children (top 2%) feeling overwhelmed with the lack of support for gifted children in our schools. I also think it is important for teachers to understand the difference between 'high achievers' 'gifted' and 'talented'.