

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Julie Skolnick as a professional learning speaker on the topics of gifted and twice-exceptional (2e) learners. Julie recently led an impactful training session for our educators, and the results were nothing short of transformative.

From the moment the session began, Julie engaged participants with her relatable stories, research-based insights, and a clear passion for helping educators better understand the complexities of gifted and 2e students. Her personal anecdotes—especially those involving her son—made the content deeply human and emotionally resonant. Educators repeatedly expressed how seen and supported they felt during her presentation.

What set Julie's training apart was the perfect balance of emotional depth, practical strategy, and evidence-based understanding. Educators walked away with a more nuanced awareness of what it means to be twice-exceptional: that giftedness can coexist with learning disabilities, emotional regulation challenges, or behavioral struggles—and that these students are often overlooked, misdiagnosed, or underserved. One of the most repeated takeaways was the importance of reframing behavior and recognizing the "why" behind a child's actions.

Key highlights from our participants' reflections included:

- A deeper understanding of **overexcitabilities** and how they show up in student behavior
- The power of the **Rage Curve** as a tool to better support emotional regulation
- The importance of **personal connection**, affirmation, and empathy in serving GT and 2e students
- Recognition that **gifted does not always mean high achieving**, and that **behavior is often communication**
- Practical tools, such as **PRAISE strategies**, **midline stretches**, and even **AI resources**, that could be used in classrooms immediately
- A renewed sense of confidence and purpose—many participants shared that they now feel **equipped with the language and strategies** to support students they hadn't known how to reach before

Several attendees described the session as *"life-changing," "eye-opening,"* and *"the best professional development of their career."* Many took pages of notes and left with not only actionable strategies but a mindset shift that will change how they view—and value—their gifted and 2e learners.

Julie's book, *Gifted and Distractible*, served as an invaluable complement to the training, and many educators have already expressed excitement about using it as a year-round reference.

I give Julie Skolnick my highest recommendation. If your goal is to empower educators with knowledge, empathy, and tools to truly support gifted and twice-exceptional students, Julie's training is not just helpful—it is essential.

Sincerely,

Kari Kenobbie-Espin
Gifted/Talented Specialist