

What We Gained From ISEP – A parents' perspective

On surface, ISEP presented itself as an opportunity to embrace another child and his or her family from a different country - a once in a lifetime experience for not only the children involved but their parents. It delivered what it promised to do - facilitating an exchange of different perspectives, culture and norms that don't seem normal.

But more than that, it presents the parents with remarkable opportunity to reflect on our own parenting approach. Perhaps time to rethink some priorities or even for some a total reboot. What may be crucial may not be that crucial after all.

Most of all we gain patience - patience with people from a different culture, patience with other parents whose perspectives can be equally different and patience with the teachers at school who are doing what they can for our child despite having to do the same for the thousands of others entrusted to them.

The ISEP program celebrates diversity not only between two cultures but the various sub-cultures that make up our own. It challenges us all to judge-less, accept-more, truly a universal lesson for each and everyone of us.

From this program too, we have noticed positive changes in Ash Li, she is more confident, articulate and responsible. This is a good stepping-stone in preparing Ash for studies overseas in 3-5 years' time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pn Khoo & teachers, PIBG committee members and Pn Nadzriah for giving Ash Li and us a memorable experience in this program. We would also like to thank Pn Ng and Miss Kwek for looking after Ash while in Australia.

Mr & Mrs Khoo Boo Hock