



# Trapped in transition from youth into adulthood: An issue of impairment, insufficient support, or lack of possibilities?

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## Background

- Exiting school → developmental process
- Parents are pessimistic about their youth's future
- Transition in planning → parents' expectation of the opportunities



## Aims

- To explore parents' perception of :
  - the received support at a special upper secondary school setting
  - their youth's future



## Research questions

1. How do parents view the future of and with their youth with disability?
2. How do parents view their role as their youth transition into adulthood?
3. What factors contribute to the positive and negative aspects of support according to parents of youth with disability?



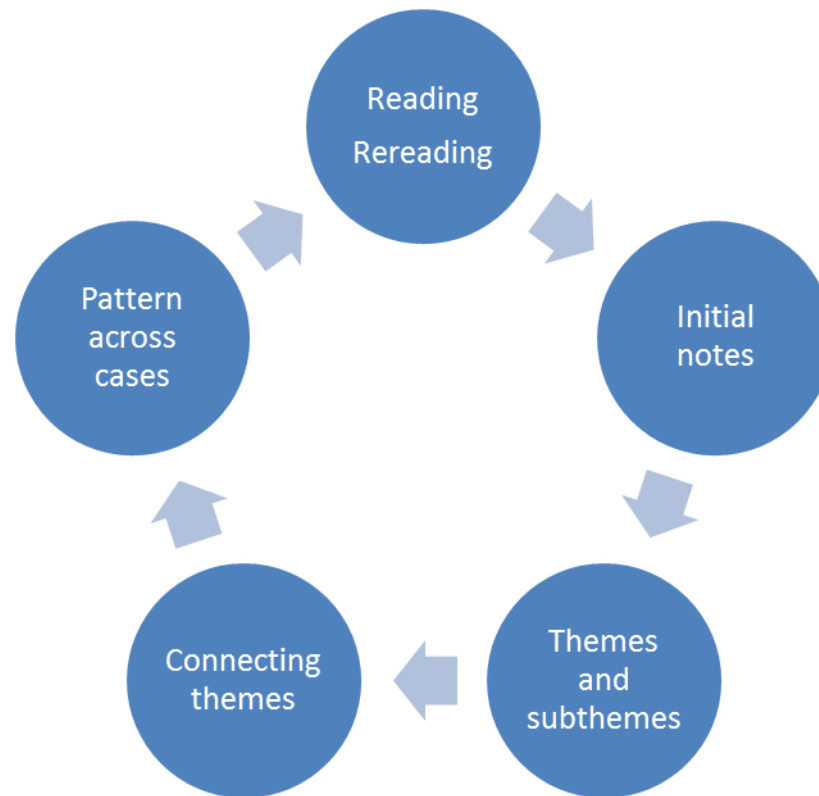
## Method

- The national upper secondary school for person with physical and cognitive disability
- NGO- Bräcke Diakoni
  - A project about transition focus on collaboration
- Semi structured interview
  - 23 parents, 17 families
  - Three consecutive years
  - 15 mothers and 8 fathers



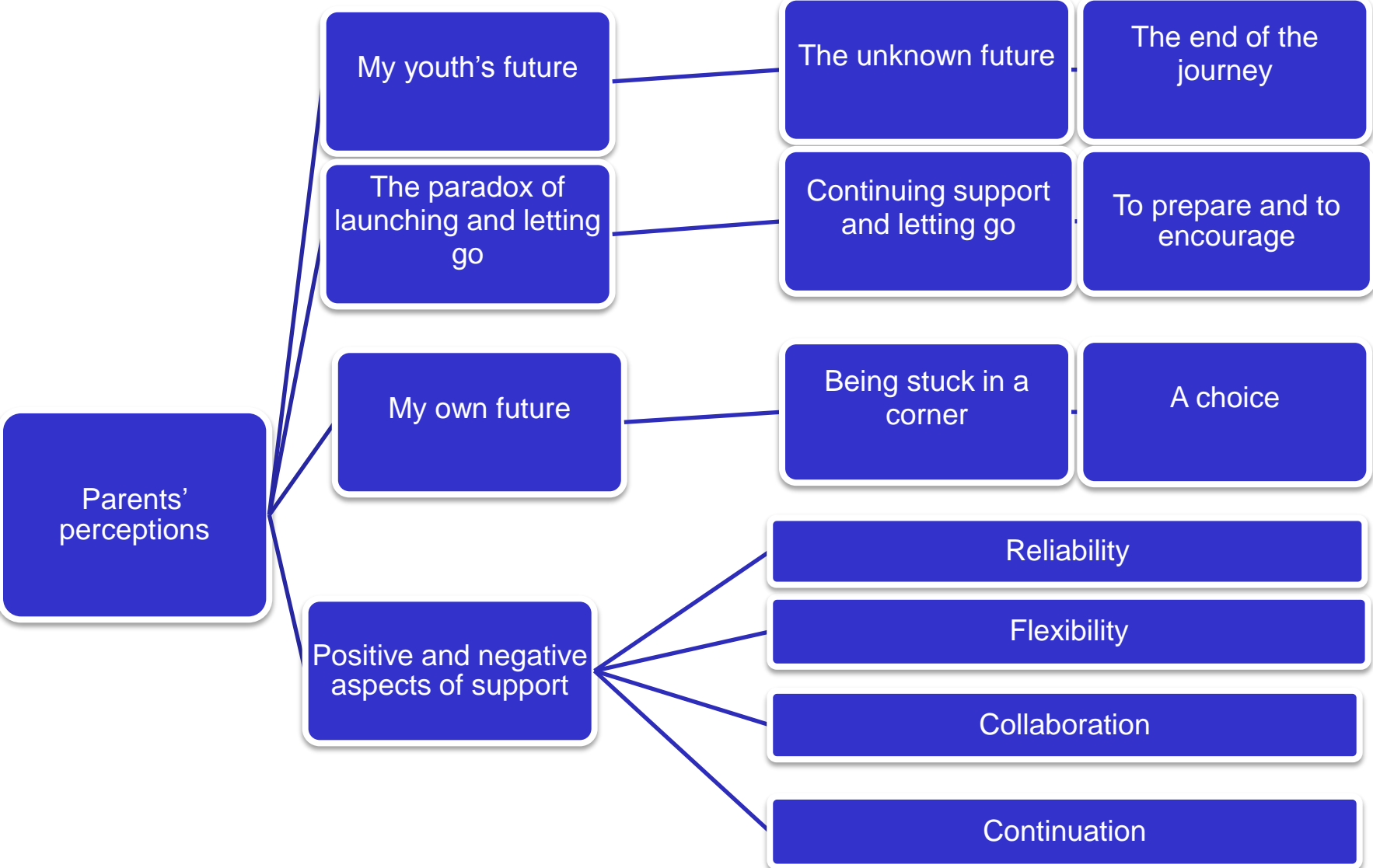
# Analysis

- The Interpretative Phenomenological analysis (IPA)





# Results



Yes, I'm not ... I'm thinking very much. Nothing special tracks ... so in that he himself did not know exactly what he wants to do but I think he would do well to get a



# 1. My youth's future

## The unknown future

"I'm not completely sure about the future...I think about it a lot. But nothing specific... And he himself does not know exactly what he wants to do either. I think he would do feel good if he can get any job, right now. Something to do. An Internship or something. He probably would not be able to work full time from the beginning, but it depends on what kind of work he will get as well."

## The end of the journey

*"He finished high school now. For children without disability, when they finish high school, their journey begins; in my son's case it's the opposite."*





## 2. The paradox of launching and letting go

- Continuing support and letting go

*“...to have a life that works for her is like running a company”*

- To prepare and to encourage

“You do not want to take away her dream , but at the same time, when can we talk about the reality? I do not want to trick her. I have told her to find an alternative.”



### 3. My own future

- Being stuck in a corner

*“I do not know (what I am going to do). I have no idea. I am just afraid of the future....I do not know how I ended up in this situation but we did. It is like being stuck in a corner which is hard to get out of.”*

- A choice

*“When my daughter bought her apartment, I quit my job so I could help her as much as possible”*

Well, then , I felt that he was in safe hands and it worked well in school. And he began to make progress.



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## Results: 4. Positive and negative aspects

- *Reliability*

*“I felt that he was in safe hands and it worked well in school. And he began to make progress.”*

### *Flexibility*

“It probably did not hurt if there were more opportunities. The program surely could have been able to provide more until he had develop further. I think his chance (to be able to live on his own) is greater with more opportunities .”

- *Collaboration*

“It's great that (name of another organization) involved in this project with internships. It was great. My son wanted me to be involved ..with what happens after school and what are the opportunities . What can you searching then we had this meeting with the LSS administrators and adult habilitering”.

- *Continuation*

“Now we are the back to the time before we were in the project. I'm a realist , I knew this would happen.”



# Conclusion

What's the probability that my son/daughter find a paid job?

Where is he/she going to live?

Is he/she going to have friends?

Who are going to support her if I let go?

How is he/she going to manage all the letters, appointments, etc?





## Thank you!

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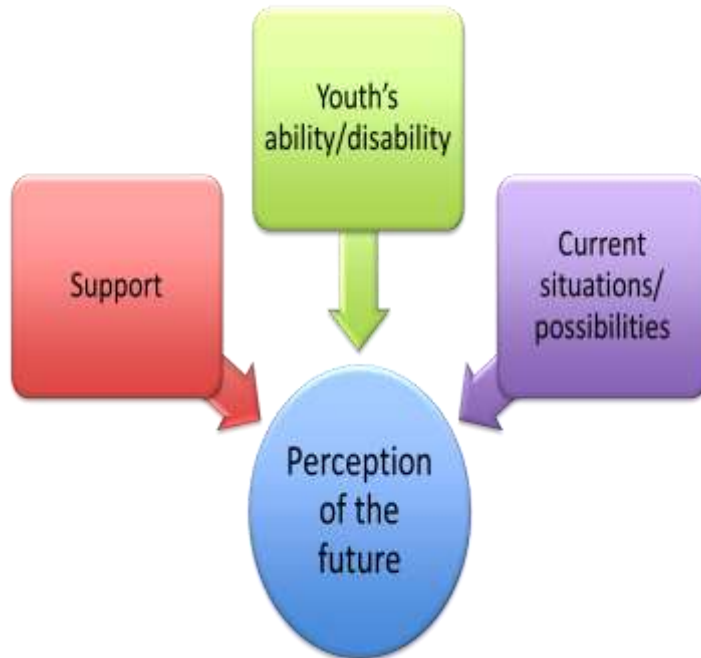
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## Discussion



- How can we create a more continuous support during the transition period for youth with disability and their parents?
- How do our society perceive the potential of youth with disability entering for example the job market?