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Being poor at studying and taking an examination

Tai Chiang Ching was an obedient boy during childhood. Since he was a late bloomer and wasn't able to find the right way to study, his school performance was not satisfactory. Sometimes he even enraged the teachers because he didn't know how to answer their questions in the classroom. Consequently, he usually received various punishments, such as palm beating, kneeling, standing, a slap, spanking, running around the playground, toilet cleaning, etc. He knew he'd been classified as the child who was "not serious" and "not willing to study" by the teachers. However, Tai felt wronged in his heart.

Additionally, Tai's younger brother performed outstandingly at school and earned many commendations to post on the wall at home, thus leading to praise from his grandparents and parents. As such, his parents usually compared him with his younger brother. They often said, "Your younger brother always gets good grades, how come you always get bad grades?" This comparison made him sad, so taking an exam came to be a painful task for him.

This vicious cycle caused him to dislike studying even more since he had no sense of accomplishment. The most striking story he remembered was that one day, as a second grader, when he couldn't finish his homework and asked a neighbour to do it for him. After Tai's father heard of this, he beat Tai Chiang Ching severely. Another story Tai Chiang Ching remembered was that, when he was a third grader, he scored zero in the subject of National Language. His father had him shaved bald as a punishment. Tai then felt so embarrassed and his self-esteem was hurt. He didn't want to go to school or go out to play with neighbours. Tai had never gotten any commendations from kindergarten through to sixth grade, so he admired and greatly respected students and friends who were able to earn such praise.

Tai Chiang Ching usually liked to play baseball with his peers. Sometimes they also played hide-and-seek together, or played in the water, with sand, swam in the river, etc. Although Tai didn't earn

any commendations to be proud of during childhood, he still cherished these “childhood memories” very much. Even today, he still believes he has some talent with baseball.

Tai remembered that, when he was nine years old, he went out to play hide-and-seek with more than 10 neighbours’ children at night. One elder child proposed to steal oranges, because the oranges planted by a neighbour were big and sweet. The child suggested that they divide into three groups for the stealing plan. Tai actually didn’t want to join the plan, but was afraid that others would accuse him of being unsociable. He then chose to join them. He still remembers his heart beating very fast when he was stealing the oranges. Another similar story was when he stealthily went to a fishery pond with friends at midnight. They then realised that it was easier to catch a fish while fishing at night than during the daytime, but Tai still felt extremely nervous and shameful. These happy and sorrowful memories made Tai realise that children have

“delicate” hearts. Once children are criticised, accused, or scolded, called “stupid,” they reject learning and can come to feel extremely depressed. Such accusations are unfair to children, because they just haven’t found their interests and learning characteristics yet.

Tai takes himself as an example of someone who was really interested in abacus and mental arithmetic. He felt happy while learning it, so even if someone mocked or tried to stop him, he still persisted in learning it and wasn’t affected. As a result of this childhood experience, he was successfully able to build an international enterprise of abacus and mental arithmetic education through enthusiasm and devotion to his own interests.