

启发儿童智慧的奥秘06

The most time-consuming activities for the average child--playing video games and watching TV--were limited at the Su's. First, there were no video games in the house, eliminating the possibility of playing video games all day. Next, other than "listening" to TV during mealtimes, Su Wan Ting and her sister Hsiang Wen usually only watched *Wo Men Yi Jia Dou Shih Ren* (literally, "Everyone In My Family Is Human"). Perhaps girls were more docile and obedient than boys ; Wan Ting and her sister never had any objections to the "less TV" rule. Being restricted from all kinds of fun cartoon shows on TV is not especially easy.

For father Su Jui Bin, who manages a parts production factory for scales, the "right to watch TV" was also conditionally restricted. Getting home at 8 or 9 p.m. each day for dinner, he only "watched" TV but did not "listen" to TV so as not to wake the kids from their sleep. Hence, when the children went to bed, the Su house became a "silent place," all to ensure that the children would get a good night of uninterrupted sleep; evidently, the parents gave a lot of thought to the matter.

The process of learning mental arithmetic usually has seven stages: 1. cognition stage; 2. acceptance stage; 3. practice stage; 4. skilled stage; 5. automatic stage; 6. elaboration stage; 7. achievement stage. As it is difficult to see results in the starting phase and the learning process can easily become boring, parents must provide constant support and encouragement. Enthusiastic support minimizes children's sense of frustration from failures and active encouragement stimulates confidence and interest in learning, providing motives to work hard.

To increase Wan Ting's interest in learning, Mrs. Su often played "number games" with Wan Ting using things from everyday life. For example, memorizing license plate numbers, telephone numbers and calculating purchase totals for mom when out shopping, all of which are vivid and practical ways to learn.

In the beginning phase, Mrs. Su was in no hurry to give tests. She thought that it was more practical for the young children to get the basics right, and so the starting stage lasted diligently for at least half a year. You reap what you sow indeed

Su Wan Ting's motto:

More haste, less speed.

The smart man borrows from others' experience; the average man struggles and gains experience; the stupid man struggles but forgets the experience.

Normally, an hour of mental arithmetic practice per day would take a beginner to grade two in a year and eight months, grade one in two

years, and to the preliminary level (level one) in two years and four months to two and a half years. This generic rule did not apply, however, to Su Wan Ting.

Little Wan Ting not only practiced an hour a day, but practiced "seriously," even "very seriously" for at least an hour every day. What's even more amazing is that Mrs. Su also practiced "very seriously" with Wan Ting every day. The mother and daughter's hard work has indeed paid off with very "awesome" grades.

In class, Mrs. Su was a parent of few words and Su Wan Ting a student of few words. According to Mr. Su, "she looked kind of silly." A student like this obviously gets little attention from classmates and teachers at first, but no one knew the mother/daughter pair was working so hard. Their skills had already surpassed the older girls and boys in the class, and went far beyond Master Tai Chiang Ching's expectations.