

启发儿童智慧的奥秘07

Exactly how good was Wan Ting after she graduated from kindergarten, about to attend first grade at Dong Guang Elementary School with eight months of mental arithmetic study behind her?

On September 20, 1992, Su Wan Ting and a fellow classmate from "CMA Arithmetic" entered the third test held by the Children's Association of Abacus Calculation in Taiwan. Su Wan Ting ended up passing grade two, a whole year ahead of the average student. Mrs. Su was overjoyed, and guidance teacher Tai Chiang Ching was shocked.

The reason that Master Tai Chiang Ching was shocked was due to Su Wan Ting's fast improvement, surpassing others in the class. In addition, he was able to finally see the effectiveness of the "two-handed method."

Su Wan Ting was in Tai Chiang Ching's "two-handed method" experimental class. Master Tai Chiang Ching had been researching the method for years, and had traveled to China in 1991 to emulate the newly invented "two-handed method." Upon returning to Taiwan, he immediately compiled teaching materials and proceeded with the actual teaching experiment.

Master Tai Chiang Ching says that theoretically, using both hands to move abacus beads and calculating mentally is 30% faster than using one hand. Amazingly, the theory worked with Su Wan Ting, making him very excited, seeing that his persistence was starting to pay off.

Since then, Master Tai Chiang Ching held Su Wan Ting as his "first seed" contestant, and started cultivating her with the plan to train her to be his second student after Lin Tzu Yin to pass level ten in both abacus and mental calculation.

As expected, Su Wan Ting did not fall short of her teacher and parents' expectations. In the first semester of first grade, she took the test held by the Three Joint Society (formed from three organizations: Commercial Abacus Committee of the General Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of China, Abacus Calculation Society of the Republic of China, and the International Abacus Association Taiwan Branch), and passed level six in mental calculation. It was an amazing achievement.

What was even more impressive was that during the second semester of first grade, Su Wan Ting passed level nine in mental calculation tests held separately by the Children's Association of Abacus Calculation in Taiwan and the Chinese Utility Abacus Research Society.

Merely a first grader, Su Wan Ting achieved grades that take an average person five years to achieve. Though amazing, it was not by

chance. Su Wan Ting's achievements were the harvest of the hard work put in by her family, her teacher and herself.

Su's mother, who overcomes adversity

Su Wan Ting's motto:

Yield twice the result with half the effort, and not half the result with twice the effort.

The successful person looks for methods. The unsuccessful person looks for excuses.

"Like father, like son. Like mother, like daughter." When applied to Mrs. Su, it's easy to see why in Wan Ting's genes, there lies such strong determination, strength and potential.

A girl prodigy reaching level nine in mental calculation in the first grade, with parents who are neither math masters nor physics doctors and who haven't even been to college! Su Wan Ting's father Su Jui Bin graduated from senior vocational industrial high school. Wan Ting's mother Chen Hua Dan received nine years of obligatory education, making her a junior high school graduate. Neither parent is highly educated, but both have high hopes for their daughters.

Mrs. Su Chen Hua Dan has lots of siblings; her parents had four boys and two girls. Her family farmed for a living and they lived in the suburbs of Guanmiao, making it inconvenient to commute to school. To help with the family business, her oldest and second oldest brothers didn't even graduate from elementary school. Later on, the family was doing better financially, so they moved to the city, giving her and her third oldest brother the chance to finish junior high school. However, after that, her father felt girls didn't need so much education, and sent her to work in the factory to help earn some money for the family. Her third oldest brother, being a boy, had the "privilege" to continue on to high school education.