

## 启发儿童智慧的奥秘08

In a family that lacked financial comfort and held traditional, conservative views, Mrs. Su Chen Hua Dan's growing experience was obviously unsatisfying. Whether in terms of knowledge, culture or art, she had desperate desires that were unfulfilled. Because of the pain she had been through, she was determined not to let her own children follow her path. She had to try her best to give her kids sufficient resources, an open learning environment and a worry-free childhood.

When she worked on the production line in her teenage years, Chen Hua Dan would look at the hot water bottles and rice cookers that were assembled in her hands one after another, and often her heart shed tears when she thought of the fact that her teenage years were spent in vain, bookless and without specialties or hobbies; it made her bitter. Later on, she decided not to work overtime all the time for just a few more pennies. She asked for permission to work only during daytime so that she could attend cram school for high school at night. Unable to turn down the knowledge-thirsty Chen Hua Dan, her boss finally caved in.

Books in hand again, Chen Hua Dan was filled with excitement. A day of hard work was put behind her by the time class started in the evening; in class, she was attentive and enthusiastic, much like her daughter Wan Ting ten years later.

In her cram school years, the teenage Chen Hua Dan seemed particularly vigorous, giving off an air of intellectuality and youthful female energy. Su Jui Bin, who worked in the same factory during daytime, was deeply attracted to her. At the time, Su Jui Bin had graduated from senior vocational industrial high school, and completed military service for two or three years. In a gathering held by the factory, Su Jui Bin took the opportunity to officially meet Su Hua Dan, and the two started seeing each other, often spending their holidays together on outings. Their friendship sprouted the seeds of love and the two became closer as the days went by, becoming the most envied couple in the factory.

Su Jui Bin, ten years older than Chen Hua Dan, was under pressure from his parents to get married so they could have grandchildren earlier. Thus, the two got married earlier than planned. Chen Hua Dan had no choice but to stop going to cram school, leaving her highest level education at "junior high school."

Having been married for ten years, her kids are older now and as "the boss's wife," Mrs. Su couldn't simply stay idle at home and besides, she craved to study. Recently, she signed herself up for English class, planning to experiment with "bilingual education" at home in the future.

Knowing both the "Two-Handed Method" to manipulate abacus beads and "bilingual education," Mrs. Su is "so super!"

Family involvement for the tiny challenger

Su Wan Ting's motto:

Laziness is the root of all evil.

Learning is like rowing a boat against the current. If you don't advance yourself, you will be washed away."

"Grow with the kids!" is Mrs. Su's parenting philosophy

Ever since Wan Ting started standing out in tests and competitions, Mrs. Su has kept her eyes open for tests and competitions held by abacus and mental arithmetic organizations, taking almost every opportunity to sign up. Of course, Wan Ting's guidance teacher Tai Chiang Ching always made sure his "first seed" contestant was fully prepared.

The second and third grade were the busiest years for Wan Ting, with an average of one test or competition every three weeks. Competitions were always arranged on holidays. Mrs. Su said back then, "I hope Wan Ting can get the honor of full attendance when she graduates from elementary school, so tests and competitions are arranged only on days when there is no school."

For Wan Ting, who had become an experienced competitor, entering competitions was trivial and ordinary. Mr. and Mrs. Su always told her not to take winning too seriously, and to just try her best.