

启发儿童智慧的奥秘12

As the saying goes, "Idle young, needy old." At just over ten years old, Wan Ting already had a good grasp of this concept! "I remember when I was seven and just starting first grade, no one knew each other, except for one or two who went to the same kindergarten. Back then, I was still silly. All I knew was that attending elementary school and kindergarten were different. I knew nothing else."

"One day passed after another. One calendar after another. One monthly account book of mother's after another, my textbooks changing from first grade to fifth grade in a flash. Thinking back, time really flies. What the books say-- "time flies like an arrow" is right. Nevertheless, I feel like I haven't wasted any time, so I think I will continue to do what I've been doing!" In the passing of time, Su Wan Ting is apparently calm and unhurried

"I often hear adults say that life is but a few dozen winters and summers, so we must seize our time, whether for study or play. But there are so few people who really know how to seize time. Most people waste their time, and then regret it later. If you had known then what was going to happen, you shouldn't have done as you did." Listening to this little adult talk about the philosophy of "time management" should make adults feel ashamed.

The dilemma over piano and abacus calculation

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 most families who hope the best for their children, Su Wan Ting went to talent classes under Mrs. Su's arrangements. In K3, she started learning abacus and mental arithmetic; in first grade, she started taking piano lessons. After class, Wan Ting's little hands were either moving abacus beads or playing the piano, constantly doing "gymnastics for fingers."

This kind of "dual talent" training didn't intimidate Wan Ting. Both her abacus and piano teachers complimented her on her gift and intelligence, and urged Mrs. Su to cultivate Wan Ting well. By second grade, Wan Ting had reached level five in abacus arithmetic and level ten in mental arithmetic, and she could easily play Mozart's "Turkish March" on the piano. Compared to classmates in her talent class, she was already a "supernormal" child prodigy.

Wan Ting devoted herself to practicing mental arithmetic and piano, but as her "level" increased, the frequency of practicing and competing also increased. In Mrs. Su's eyes, other than Wan Ting's outstanding achievements, she also saw the pressure and painstaking effort that Wan Ting was hiding. She could not bear to see this and started to worry.

"Children are still children," Mrs. Su said. "We must not push her too hard for fear of her forsaking a happy childhood. Perhaps if we push her, she will be successful and accomplished when she grows up, but such a solemn childhood might have negative effects on her future, turning into regrets for the rest of her life. I think parents need to know when to stop expecting so much of their children." Mrs. Su's heart was filled with confusion, but she knew very well that she was fulfilling her role as mother by loving, caring for, and using her motherly instincts to help her children grow. She definitely had not been using and won't ever use ambition and strict teaching to "produce" a child prodigy.

"Actually, Wan Ting and her sister's achievements have already surpassed my expectations. I cannot be unsatisfied. If I were them, I probably couldn't even accomplish half of what they've accomplished!" Mrs. Su says, picturing herself in her daughters' shoes.

Throughout second grade, Wan Ting signed up for no less than twenty abacus and mental calculation tests and competitions, averaging two per month. After one test, Mrs. Su asked Wan Ting, "Is it very tiring to learn both abacus and mental arithmetic and piano?" Wan Ting nodded and said, "Yeah, a little, but if I had more time to practice, I know I could do better. Abacus and mental arithmetic and piano are both so fun!"