

启发儿童智慧的奥秘14

Once, Mrs. Su was chatting with "Fu Cheng Mental Arithmetic Child Prodigy" Lin Tzu Yin's mother about the children's learning experience. Mrs. Lin gave her a lot of encouragement and words of comfort, which helped her a great deal in terms of mental attitude. She recalls something Mrs. Lin said. "If you care for the tree trunk well, the branches and leaves will naturally flourish."

Lin Tzu Yin had placed first in the first national contest for outstanding children in abacus calculation. In Master Tai Chiang Ching's abacus and mental arithmetic center, she was the first student to pass level ten in both abacus and mental calculation tests; therefore, listening to Mrs. Lin's experience was rather useful for Mrs. Su.

Feeling more relaxed, Mrs. Su and Wan Ting continued going to lessons and practicing as arranged by the guidance teacher. The two were not discouraged and did not give up, continuing to endure the difficulties the "level nine" bottleneck presented. Heart to heart, the motherdaughter pair kept faith in the unchanging concept of "depending on effort."

Letting kids know where they made mistakes

Su Wan Ting's motto:

Think only of success, not of failure.

On any given Sunday, any team can beat any other team

The "level nine" bottleneck in which Wan Ting was stuck for two years was also a testing period of Mrs. Su's parenting intelligence and ability. With just a junior high school degree, Mrs. Su has a parenting philosophy worthy of respect and represents a good reference for parents.

Give your child encouragement and not pressure.

Mrs. Su stresses that positive guidance motivates children to study on their own, increasing their interest in learning. Mrs. Su often tells her children that "If you want, you can do anything!" For instance, it is important to have your children work hard for tests and competitions, but it is equally important that they don't take grades and ranking too seriously. This way, children will perform better and more naturally, and the results of learning will also be more effective.

Letting kids know where they made mistakes

When your child does his or her homework incorrectly or gets wrong answers on tests, you can't just blame him or her for not knowing something so simple. Some parents even call their child "stupid" or call them an "idiot." Mrs. Su feels that it's common for children to make mistakes; in fact, it's perfectly justified, which is exactly why children need the guidance of teachers. Mrs. Su says that when her children make mistakes on their homework or don't know the answers to test problems,

she discusses with them why the mistakes were made-- whether they didn't understand, didn't remember, were careless, incorrectly comprehended the problem. After discovering the reasons for making the mistakes, the children can then immediately correct those mistakes to prevent making the same mistakes next time.

Hold an apple in one hand and a teacher's pointer in the other

"It is important to reward and punish appropriately. When holding an apple in one hand, hold a teacher's pointer in the other. If you hold apples in both hands, you are spoiling your child, which does him or her harm. If you hold teacher's pointers in both hands, that would be undeserved unkindness, which does him or her harm. Mrs. Su does not reject an appropriate level of discipline. By "appropriate," she means that it is fine to reproach your child, but never nag. Lecture your child, but never beat or use abusive language. It is important to carefully handle the fine line in between. "For example, when Wan Ting made a mistake while practicing mental arithmetic," Mrs. Su says, "I would lightly hit her on the palm to let her know she needed to focus. When Wan Ting and Hsiang Wen did well in tests or competitions, I would take them out shopping and let them buy something small to reward themselves." Mrs. Su stresses the importance of coupling hardness with softness and using both the carrot and the stick for noticeable results in educating children.

Don't embarrass your child

Mrs. Su says as parents and teachers, the biggest taboo is to scold your children in public. This hurts children a great deal. "If you scold your children in front of others," she says, "no amount of consolation will necessarily make up for the harm you inflicted upon them." When children don't do so well on tests or competitions, parents should avoid direct scolding, but instead change the subject to decrease the sense of discouragement in children, and wait until everything sinks in, then encourage them by telling them that you hope they do better next time.