

启发儿童智慧的奥秘15

Grow close to your children

In elementary school, children desperately need the love and care of their parents. If you don't provide sufficient care for your children during these years, it will be too late when your children are in middle school or high school. As a full time housewife, Mrs. Su devotes herself to her children, keeping them company while they study, do their homework, practice mental arithmetic, play the piano, eat, sleep and watch TV; she also talks and plays chess and other games with them. Mrs. Su says, "when kids need you, give them more time, even double the time and grow closer to them, because this kind of experience and process happens only once. It's the same for parents and children."

The little girl who is no longer shy

Su Wan Ting's motto:

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

Do not fear going slow, only fear standing still.

Su Wan Ting isn't the kind of lively girl who grabs people's attention. By glancing at her, it is impossible to tell that she was a national champion in mental arithmetic, a child prodigy. She is neither pretty nor smart. One would even say she looks silly. She doesn't talk much, very quiet and introverted. If no one explained her background to you, you wouldn't even notice her existence.

Mrs. Su thinks it strange too. She says, laughing, that Wan Ting and Hsiang Wen are a pair of smart sisters who look silly. When they were young, the two sisters never smiled for pictures, and always looked silly, which was both frustrating and amusing.

Consequently, Mrs. Su often reminds Wan Ting and Hsiang Wen to act livelier, to smile at teachers in addition to greeting them, and to bond with classmates instead of standing quietly in the corner and staring off into space. Since they were born with these personalities, it's rather difficult to change.

Wan Ting knows how she is, and tries to improve according to her mother's instructions. In her diary, her "criticisms" towards her little sister reveal the two sisters' personalities.

My sister is in the second class of third grade. Her worst trait is that she doesn't smile. Whether waking up in the morning or not being able to finish homework, she always puts on a poker face and says nothing, making mother angry. Mama often says "Girls don't look good like this, and will be less popular!" Thus, I hope my sister can slowly change this trait of hers, and try to smile more often so people won't feel uncomfortable.

What Wan Ting said about Hsiang Wen, was what Wan Ting used to be like, except that now she knows "smiling all the time" is more loveable. This change in Wan Ting was actually "trained." Mrs. Su says, ever since Wan Ting started going to abacus and mental arithmetic lessons, her personality had become livelier, bubblier and lovelier.

How did this happen? In the mental arithmetic center, Master Tai Chiang Ching is especially good with children; he often asks children to be enthusiastic and lively. When he asks questions, students are urged to bravely raise their hands to answer; when answering questions, they should be concise but powerful and to speak in a loud voice. In addition, when a classmate answers correctly, they ought to strongly applaud him or her, so as to always cheer for classmates and for themselves. In such an energetic learning environment, Wan Ting has, like her classmates, gradually become more active, energetic and livelier.

Later on, as Wan Ting increasingly exposed herself to small and large events through tests and competitions, she became more courageous and poised. Mrs. Su says, Wan Ting has been on stage countless times and accepted countless awards; despite her innate introverted personality, she is no longer a closed, shy girl, but a poised, modest young adult.