

Equipping your child 如何裝備你的孩子

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Perspectives

From the perspectives of:

- An experienced practitioner
- A teacher trainer
- An educational researcher
- A parent

Roles of parents

- Parents play many roles in their child's development
- The relative importance of these roles changes overtime
- One of the major roles of parents in the early years of their child is to choose and plan for the child

Choosing and planning for the child

- What are the goals you set for the child?
- How do you help the child to achieve these goals?
- What are the resources involved?
- Which schools do you choose?
- What learning experiences do you provide for the child?

Setting the Goals

- One step at a time starting from kindergarten?
- Aiming for favourite primary schools?
- Finding a route to favourite secondary schools?
- Adopting strategies to prepare for favourite universities in specific countries?

Setting the Goals (Cont'd)

- Planning for a specific career?
- Developing certain attributes according to the family values?
- What kind of person do you want your child to become?

Uncertainties and Anxiety

- Are we planning for the present or the future?
- What will the world be like in the future?
- Choosing for the child involved long-term planning
- Long-term planning incurs uncertainties and anxiety

Equipped for a Rapidly Changing World

- We do not have a crystal ball
- Long term goals need strategies that can equip the child to deal with the changing world

Skills Needed in a Changing World

- Habit of learning (life-long learning)
- Human skills (leadership, motivation and compassion)
- Creativity
- Knowledge application
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving skills

Core Learning Areas

- Knowledge
- Basic skills
- Attitude and value

(p.21 Guide to the Pre-primary Curriculum 2006)

Things to do for your kindergarten-age child

- Being a rich source of love, intimate interaction and emotional support
- Being your child's teacher and providing positive learning environments at home
- Ensuring a balanced development in literacy, aesthetics, physical health and social skills

Things to do for your kindergarten-age child (Cont'd)

- Communicating with the kindergarten about the child's learning and providing support at home accordingly.
- Providing guidance on values, ethics, disciplines and social norms
- Setting and maintaining boundaries to encourage positive behaviours
- Forming age-appropriate expectations for their child so as to provide support accordingly

Food for thoughts

- How do you see your roles as a parent?

Food for thoughts (Cont'd)

- If knowledge obsolesces fast and loses its significance, should I adopt a passive stance in my child's learning?
- How can I balance my aspiration for achievements in my child's learning and the appropriate expectations at the right pace with my child's development stage?

Being a parent is a very meaningful, fulfilling and fruitful process. We learn and grow together with our children. I wish you a happy journey of parenting.

Thank you.