

③ Tendency in the "Inquiring Stage" & Scientific Sight cultivation

Children begin to proceed into an Inquiring Stage when they are at the age of four to six. Averagely, they may raise three questions in one minute. It is believed that even the most patient parents would find it difficult to answer all their doubts one by one. Some parents consider that the actual society does not welcome anybody who keeps asking questions and making queries. Therefore, they restrain their children from putting forth questions. However, we must not forget that our world needs people who are able to bring out doubts, and along which, the required answers. Therefore, the contemporary education lays great emphasis on "Instigate Question Raising, Assist in Solution Searching" so as to nurture a scientific method and spirit to face any problem in life.

Of course, for children who are in their infancy, we would not set up too high a level for them. Some parents find that their children do not show much enthusiasm for the answer received. They do not listen attentively when the solutions are precisely given. On the contrary, they produce another question which is entirely irrelevant to the first and this causes much despondence to their parents. To tell the truth, when children step into the "Inquiring stage", they are only interested in questioning and in the mode of asking. They may probably keep making inquiries but without the intention of getting any answer. They ask just for the sake of asking and are unable to distinguish the relation between the question and solution. This causes them to show their indifference to the given answers. For this reason, parents should first help their children to learn the connection between the question and the answer and then instruct them to search for the solution themselves after the asking.

The appropriate way of handling the matter is not complicated at all. When a child raises a question, the parents do not have to play the specialists and give a professional answer. Try your best to show that you are interested in the child's creative interrogation, repeat the same problem to let the kid hear his/her own question and then invite the child and other family members to participate the game of searching for the answer. Each person may give a possible solution and allow the child to share the fun of answer seeking. This helps to instigate his/her motivation to look for the required conclusion avoiding the above mentioned situation of not listening to the given reply. However, parents must

bear in mind that they should "never criticize the logicity of a child's answer". This is because we cannot expect a little child to master the capability of logical reasoning at this stage. Our focus is to nourish the kid to take up the habit of looking for solutions by himself/herself. Logical reasoning is the

performance of school-age children and the practice of pulling the shoot to help the seed to grow is something to forsake. Thus, as long as the little child utters an answer, no matter how ridiculous it may be, he/she deserves to be supported by a direct praise for the cautious speculation or is worthy of admiration for the endeavour. The more possible answers to a question a child can find, the stronger power of contemplation he/she is able to possess. The outcome of which is even more profitable than giving the kid a direct reply. For example, the sounding of a burglary alarm may not merely mean that a thief is at hand as it can be a faulty mechanism, thundering in the sky, too windy, a dog that is urinating, something fallen, having an earthquake, the car owner is playing with the remote control device, the appearance of the sunspot, electric wave interference, etc. If parents keep being persevering in helping their child to adopt this practice, it is advantageous for the little one to establish scientific sights.

The questions that the children ask are often in numerous strange forms which, the parents may not be able to answer fully. How to handle the doubts that not even adults are able to deal with? First of all, do not just simply give a negative reply but praise them for asking something which not even they or a scientist can answer. It is because children may like to know the reason for the sun to be red at sunset, the street lamps to be in orange colour or that no more dinosaurs to be seen. In the case of not knowing or not sure about the answer, they have to admit that they do not know the truth. At the same time, they have to tell their kids that they have brought up an interesting but profound question, and, together, they would dig out the practical fact. At this, the father or mother may utilize this chance as a parenting activity and bring the children to libraries, book shops or even search together the required information from the internet. Furthermore, they allow their kids to learn the different ways of discovering solutions. In this way, the younger generation would finally be capable of looking for answers from the libraries and are able to learn much more, other than from our impartation.

What to do if your children do have too much to ask while you really have only limited available spare time? Still you should not add any negative comment to their query. You may first tell them that you are busy for the moment and are unable to satisfy their needs at once. Let them understand that you will arrange a time to listen to their excellent question. Encourage them to collect the problems together and put them out at another time. On one hand, the unnecessary questions can be deleted and on the other, the little kids may exercise memorization while without hurting their eagerness of asking as the situation is just time lacking.

The opportunity and stage for little children to raise questions is neither much nor long. Parents please do not miss this chance of nurturing your children's alertness and enthusiasm for science delving.

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