



03 Talking About Adaptation Problem for Transfer Students

School-transfer is not only change of uniform

At the beginning of every new academic year, there is a considerable number of transfer students starting their new schooling life in new schools.

Parents should notice that school-transfer is not only change of uniform and change of textbooks, but a starting of new learning life. Maybe we can describe it as "immigration", because school-transfer is the same as immigration, with the need to face new learning environment, new schoolmates and new teachers. Therefore, besides preparing for those things required, we need to pay special attention to students' mental and environmental adaptation.

Understand the new schools as much as possible

When schools open, parents should notice and be concerned about children's reaction and not the results of study after school-transfer. It is because the results of study are not reflected until several weeks after school starts; usually it is more difficult to manage problems which are detected in later days.

As the saying "A good beginning holds 50% success" suggests, parents should try their best to attend parents meeting activities which are held by schools during the period of school opening; understand more about schools' strategies, development directions and characteristics. Schools communication channel and regulations, especially to know the class teachers in early date, are the important channels for parents to understand the situations of their children in new schools. After there is more understanding between schools and parents, it can lessen the misunderstanding between children and schools.

Be concerned about children's relationship with their schoolmates

After transferred to new schools, firstly, children may face the problem of getting along with schoolmates. At the early stage of academic year, it is more important to be concerned about children's relationship with their schoolmates than the results of their study and not to concentrate on whether or not they are bullied. It is absolutely understandable that parents care about their children. But if parents make the judgment too early that their children are being bullied, they cannot analyze the problems rationally. Thus, it will be more difficult for them to help their children.

In this situation, communication is the most important of all. Parents need to understand the incident from different aspects and help each other to truly solve the problem. It will not help the situation if they are swayed by their personal feelings and act rashly.

Schools should pay close attention to the needs of new students

Besides parents who are paying close attention to the adaptation problem of transfer students, many schools are also paying close attention to the needs of new students. Whenever new students arrive schools, student counselors hold some adaptation activities for these students, which include new school camping activities and school adaptation counselling association etc. The purpose is to make sure that students have better understanding of schools before starting their new school life; to get acquaintance and build up relationship with other new schoolmates, in order to reduce unnecessary conflict created by over self-protection consciousness during the process of school adaptation.

Regardless of parents or schools, all of them hope to help the children to grow up healthily. To the students, some difficulties do exist in the adaptation of school-transfer. But when we care more about them, we not only reduce the negative effects, but also build up a good parent and children relationship and enhance the students' sense of belongings to schools.

A mutual trust and cooperation between parents and schools helping our children to step up a healthy grow-up path is the direction of our common desire and effort.

Leung Yau Ching (Director -Escola Secunda Ria Luso-Chinesa de Luis Gonzaga Gomes)
Excerpted from "Perfect Parents", 20th. Issue, August, 2007

