

18 Handy Tips for Family Education

Tip 16: When kids are neglected? (Dialogue Script)

Docudrama 1: DON'Ts	
Father:	Honey, I'm leaving. I have to meet someone tonight. I'm not coming home for dinner.
Mother:	Again?
Father:	I'm going to meet Fung to discuss some business.
Mother:	It's been so long since you last ate at home. Siu-ye almost can't recognise you.
Father:	How long? I don't have a choice. I need to work.
Mother:	You have classes on Monday and Wednesday, meeting on Tuesday, and basketball on Thursday. It's finally Friday. And you're not coming home for dinner.
Father:	I study for self-improvement. The meeting on Tuesday is decided by my company. I really have no choice. Basketball is my only pastime. In fact I don't have plans every Friday. But Fung asked me out today. How can I say no?
Mother:	Do you know something bad happened to Siu-ye?
Father:	What happened?
Mother:	Yesterday I got a call from her school saying that she was caught using drugs.
Father:	What?!
Expert Advice	
Prof. Wong Po-choi:	Experts say that many young people get into trouble only after their family had got problems. One of the reasons is that their parents don't have time. Parents in Hong Kong are busy. They always have a packed schedule but forgot to spare some time for their family. Their kids are neglected as a result. It's too late to regret after things had gone wrong. Parents are so busy. How can they have time? That's simple. Two words: "make appointments". We don't just spend time with our family only when we're free. We should fix certain days for dinner at home. Parents should arrange to go out with kids at fixed time and call home regularly. You

can do it less often when you're busy. But if you don't fix a date, you won't do it. When the parent-child relationship is close, the family intelligence of kids would be enhanced, so that they would be less likely to be led astray.

Docudrama 2: DOs

Mother: So what time are you coming back?

Father: Around 8 pm. Leave me some food.

Mother: OK, but the food will have cooled off when you're back. You're not going to eat before coming home?

Father: You knew it. My friends know that I always go home for dinner unless there is some special reason. When I can see you at home, even if I have to eat cold food, I still feel so happy.

Mother: I know. You're a good father. Are you going to eat out with Siu-yee on Friday? Mrs Yu asked me to go shopping with her.

Father: Yes, I have a "date" with my daughter. We will meet at 7 pm and eat at a restaurant in a shopping mall. After that we will visit a bookshop.

Mother: Right, our girl really likes to hang out with you. She looks so happy every time she comes back. Hey, you have to leave now, right?

Father: Oh, yeah. See you tonight!

Mother: Bye.