Family Council

"Family: A Hub to Cheer You Up" Family Education Packages – Tips for Stressed Parents SIN Wai-chun, June, Registered Social Worker

Tips for Stressed Parents

June : Many parents shared with me that

when they help with their children's homework

dictations, tests or exams

they are like in a battle with them

Their good relationship

a harmonious and intimate one suddenly fell into a tug of war

(While there are always a winner and a loser in a battle)

There shouldn't be any in a parent-child relationship

Here are some suggestions for parents

Tip 1: To focus more on children's needs

June : First, to adjust your mindset

Focus more on children's needs than their academic performance

In fact, children are under a lot of stress

over their studies

They need their parents' care

and understanding

Tip 2: To appreciate areas the children are good at

June : Parents are suggested to appreciate areas their children are good at

instead of focusing on their weakness

As long as parents suit themselves into their children's shoes

it will be easier for them to follow their hearts

getting to understand that their children have many strengths

begin to show them recognition and appreciation

Children will eventually understand that their parents are their biggest supporter

Tip 3: To correctly accept the negative emotions

June : Other than that, I also suggest parents should accept their emotions

I know that most parents play multiple roles in their life

They have to work, take care of the family manage their children's studies as well as to handle a lot of house chores
It is very stressful indeed.
It is even more struggling for those parents who have children with special needs and requires tremendous patience and perseverance
It's possible that parents get worn out and exhausted
In times like these, parents need to tell themselves that
It is normal to feel negative
You don't have to blame yourself
or criticise yourself

Tip 4: To share and complement with other caregivers

June : Parents can share the work

with other caregivers at home first

and discuss how to complement each other beforehand

When someone needs help or feels stressed out

we can fill in for each other and provides support

When we find our family member

is stressed out

because of handling children's studies

perhaps we can fill in for that member

so that he or she can take a break

Give the member a pat on the shoulder

a glass of water

or even a hug

Tip 5: To plan a "Me Time"

June : Parents need to take good care of themselves

Regular and long-term care

Means taking time for ourselves

a "me time"

Find a little time every day

every week

or every month

to go on a date or going out with friends

Do something that we enjoy doing

such as exercising, gardening or watching movies

This helps keep our mind and body healthy

Tip 6: To take a deep breath

June : When there is an emotional outburst

a way to handle it immediately is to

take a deep breath

What's great about taking a deep breath is that

we can do it anytime, anywhere

We can take a deep breath

everywhere at home

We will then gradually calm ourselves

Tip 7: Share your inner feelings with companions

June : We can also choose one or two companions that we trust beforehand

I know that many parents of children with special needs

have joined peer groups or have companions

who they often talk to

You can identify one or two of them

When you are under huge pressure

or when you are exhausted

you can send that person a text message

This action shows that

you put trust in that person

and you know that there is someone who is always there

and understands you

By doing so, you will feel relieved

and be able to keep going