

Family Education Package for Families with Newborn Babies

Episode 4: <u>Does ‘praise’ spoil children?</u> (Transcript)
Host: It is very normal for parents to praise their children. In fact there are many ways of praising. Are you doing it in the right way?
Drama part 1
(Two years later) Narration: Betty, Brian and their 2-year-old daughter, Summer, are playing with toys in the living room. Grandmother comes out from the kitchen. Grandma: Enough fun for today. Time to get ready for supper. Betty: Summer, let’s pack the toys, shall we? Brian: Here we go! Let’s see who’s quicker. Narration: They tidy up the living room quickly. Brian: Summer, you did very well just now. So Daddy will take you to buy more toys later, okay? Grandma: My son, you should not praise your child indiscriminately. You will spoil her and she won’t be a bright person when she grows up. Follow me, Summer. Betty: (Voice over) Why can’t I even praise my child? Brian: (Voice over) I don’t know...
Expert advice
Ms. Hui: Appropriate praise is very important. In building self-confidence and self-image, children are often affected by the words and responses of their parents and people around. So if your children behave well, you should express your appreciation. You can appreciate and praise them for their efforts in learning instead of focusing on their ability and the outcome. For instance, you can say, “You are such a good kid today, eating on your own.” Or you can say, “I am glad to see that you have learnt how to brush teeth.” But the most important thing is that you should give them praise appropriately and tell them clearly and specifically why they are praised. By doing so, you will not only give positive energy to your children, but also enhance your parent-child relationship.
Drama part 2
Brian: Summer, you did very well. You packed the toys. So Daddy will take you to the park later, okay? Grandma: It’s time for dinner Betty: Summer, let’s set the table together.
Expert advice
Ms. Hui: Praise is not necessarily associated with gifts or toys, especially when it is related to learning. Because this is the only way to avoid affecting the values and learning incentive of your children. For example, when children start to learn to write, you can give them encouragement and praise their efforts. Instead of rewarding them with toys, you should describe their action directly and give them encouragement, “I am so impressed that you

worked very hard on this homework.”

Conclusion

Host: Fathers and mothers, do you want your children to behave better and better after being praised?
Then every time when you want to praise them, remember to stop and think: think about the reasons of praising them.

Stop and think before you praise

Improve children's self-confidence in every way