

## Family Education Package for Families with Newborn Babies

Episode 5: <b><u>Children should win at the start?</u></b> (Transcript)	
Host:	All parents wish their children a wonderful future. They start to make plans for their children at an early stage. How many plans? Let's take a look!
Drama part 1	
Narration:	Apple, Betty and Candy are having lunch together. Betty shares with Apple her experience in taking care of her baby.
Betty:	Apple, my little Summer's kindergarten is now open for new applications. Shall I get an application form for you?
Apple:	My baby isn't born yet. Isn't it too early to make an application now?
Betty:	Of course not. Places in prestigious schools are highly competitive. Places will run out soon if you don't act well beforehand. I did also submit my application when I was pregnant at your stage. Only with this step, we would not lose out!
Apple:	Do you mean we have to make an application before the baby is born?
Betty:	Believe it or not, you can check it with Candy.
Candy:	Actually...
Betty:	Just one more point, your child will have to go in for interviews when he or she is 1½ years old. When my Summer was 1 year old back then, I signed her up for two interview courses and three playgroups. Let her meet more people, it's very important.
Narration:	Apple has doubts after listening to Betty's sharing.
Apple:	How come there are so many things to do?
Expert advice	
Ms. Shum:	<p>Many parents suppose that it is of the utmost importance to win at the start. And that's why they sign up for many different kindergarten interview courses or interest classes for their children. But if it is done at the expense of the time sharing with your kids, you may need to consider if it's worth to do so.</p> <p>However, for children, especially those under the age of three, what they need most is to stay close with their parents or their caregiver. Only with this communication can they establish an intimate relationship and a sense of security, learn to express themselves, interact with each other and develop a regular living pattern. If parents can handle the above situations in a proper way, children can grow up happily and healthily.</p>
Drama part 2	
Apple:	How come there are so many things to deal with?
Betty:	This is just the beginning, there is more to come...
Candy:	Betty, don't scare her off so soon. It seems that many people act in this way, but not every kindergarten adopts the same policy. Also, children are too small to learn and digest so many things all at the same time. Even worse, it may bring negative effects. So I think the best we can do for our children is to stay close with them. So that they can grow up happily and healthily, just like my little Tony...

### Expert advice

Ms. Shum: Quantity does not mean quality. If you push your children to join so many interest classes, they will easily get exhausted, feel tired and may even suffer from stress. Please note that if your children are required to face stress at their tender age and don't know how to handle it, it will easily bring negative and far-reaching influence on their emotions.

### Conclusion

Host: As a parent, we should first stay close with our children and establish a good family relationship with them. We may then arrange the play time and study time for our children to meet their development needs. Do not just follow suit without consideration. Your children can then have a happy childhood.

*A head start is not essential*

*A happy process is more crucial*