

## Monster and Helicopter Parents

6B Christine Luk

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article entitled 'Monster and helicopter parents on the move' published in Hong Kong Post yesterday. 'Monster and helicopter parents' is a new term which has been used for only a few years. I would like to express my views on the phenomenon.

I realize that many parents in Hong Kong are striving to 'transform' their children so that they can 'win at the starting line'. These parents are under fire. Are they paying too much attention to their kids, making themselves monsters?

From the past decade onwards, middle-class parents in Hong Kong have been trying their best to provide their children with a comfortable life. They would buy a lot of toys and clothes for their beloved children. They would not let their children do any housework at home. They either employ domestic helpers or spend their own time taking care of the children and doing everything for them. Their doing so, however, brings themselves much stress and anxiety and at the same time get their children in a fix. It has been reported that most local teenagers are not able to take care of themselves. They cannot do simple things like tying their shoelaces. Isn't it absurd? Why are these children always living under their parents' protection?

'Monster and helicopter' parents would, in fact, affect the future of their children. The article says that such parents give their children a lot of help and provide them with whatever they need so that they can become more competitive and will not be losers. Therefore, parents will give the thumbs up for their children joining plenty of activities such as playing football, swimming and playing the piano.

It is shocking that parents help their children with their homework and many other tasks. There is no doubt that parents love their children and treat them the best they can. But why do parents act in such a crazy way?

First of all, middle-class parents do not want their children to live a hard life. They believe that creating every opportunity for their children is important. Therefore, they would fulfill their children's wants and buy a lot of things such as smart phones, computers and brand name clothes for them. They would give quite a huge amount of money to their children so that they can get whatever they want. Money may be a blessing from parents to children but in my opinion, it is a curate's egg for teenagers.

Secondly, there is a keen competition for places in reputable kindergartens, schools and tertiary institutions. Therefore, parents do not want their children

to be losers. They have no choice but to help their children to be the winners in competitions. They hope their children can attain great achievement in the future. What have the children done? They just follow their parents' plans and instructions.

Parents should take immediate action to help their children learn to tackle difficulties. First, they must let their children share the housework and train them to take care of themselves and cope with failure. Also, parents must give their children the freedom to make decisions. Parents can offer their children guidance during the planning and problem-solving process. This can help them acquire skills which are for their life-long benefits.

I hope parents would start thinking of the proper way to bring up and nurture their kids effectively. Stop spoiling them. Train them to be independent. Let them learn through trial and error. In the end, parents will be proud of the success of their children.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong

**Teacher's Feedback :** There are critical ideas with elaboration that show a clear perspective with relevant supporting details. You may also include children's perspectives on the issue. (Miss Wong Siu Fung)