

Dear Editor,

Over Protection of Children in Hong Kong

I feel extremely annoyed when seeing the parents over protect their children. I fully understand that parents love their children, but if something is over, it might often backfire. I am writing to share with you and your readers of my views.

It does not take much to realize the purpose of 'helicopter parents'. That is expecting their children to learn more knowledge and personal skills in a diverse aspect to face this competitive society. Also, they hope their children can have a happy experience in adolescence. However, in order to achieve these goals, parents always impose a high pressure and high expectation on their children, which may leave a lasting impact on their personality and moral value.

Just imagine how they feel when they cannot live up to their parents' expectation. Take academic aspect as an example. During study and revision, children will get laborious and exhausted. If you still give them heavy workload, for example, extra homework, they will feel depressed and feel a sense of hopelessness. Pursuing this further, they might use drugs to express their dissatisfaction and sadness with the pressure they face in family.

In the second place, overly protective parents have managed every detail of their children's lives, no matter extracurricular activities or their interest. I must admit that planning the activities for them sometimes can help children to develop their own interest and potentials. However, most of them could dispossess children's talents in another field. Like the NBA greatest player Michael Jordan, if his parents are 'helicopter parents', and they don't let Michael play basketball, would Michael be the most respectable and popular star in the world?

The most noteworthy point I would like to make is that when parents over protect their children, they may experience much less than the others who can explore their own life by themselves. For instance, if parents restrict their social circle - friends, it may reduce their interpersonal and communication skills with others, as having a good communication skill is vital in workplace. Employers will therefore not choose him to be the worker.

Obviously, 'helicopter parents' has crossed the line. A middle way ought to be found. After all, parents, I hope all of you can think about your parenting one more time. Think about whether it really does your children well. Spare more time with them and know more about what they think. Over protection is really not a sensible choice to teach children!

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

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