

*The number of spoilt children is growing in Hong Kong in the recent years. What are the reasons for this phenomenon? Can you give some examples from your experience about the behaviours and characteristics of these children? What can the school and parents do to solve this problem? Write a letter to the editor of the Young Post giving your views on this problem. Sign your letter 'Chris Wong'. Do not write any address.*

Dear Editor,

### **The Increasing Spoilt Children in Hong Kong**

I am writing to share my opinion in the issue of spoilt children. Nowadays, the number of spoilt children is growing in Hong Kong. We can see child shouting to their parents and asking for whatever they want unceremoniously everywhere on streets in the recent years. This may be due to the changes of our society in years.

The phenomenon can be explained by several reasons. Hong Kong parents want fewer children that children are showered with many privileges, like being spoon-fed, assisted in shower and changing clothes. Parents focus on their only child too much. They do all the jobs for their child so as to avoid their child from dangers and being hurt. They view it as a way of showing their love and care to the child. At the same time, having an only grandchild, grandparents provide everything. Grandparents give the child whatever he wants by taking cue from their not so abundant yesteryears and now receiving their bonanza. Some grandparents even points to introduce something child should not have, such as iproduct, mobile phone and PSP.

Additionally, with parents out to work, a foreign domestic worker does the job of looking after the child. There are some kinds of affection on child's ability to take care of himself. The domestic worker may do the school homework while the child is bust with PSP grandparents introduced. Also, the domestic helper would do other things that children at the light age are supposed to start doing, like tying their shoelaces, carrying heavy school bags or holding umbrellas. The domestic worker would not refuse to do any one of these jobs in order to please the employer. The doting and overprotection the child received has led him to become dependent on others.

Taking a simple case, a kid who cannot have shower on her own has a brother, 7 who keeps urinating hid bed while he sleeps and he still has to wear diapers. Both children are known to be pampered by the domestic helper since birth and rarely have chance to do things on their own. Moreover, a study conducted by Hong Kong showed that 79% of children who should be eating by themselves are still being fed by either family members or domestic helpers.

For my own experience about the behaviours and characteristics of these spoilt children, I saw a young girl pointing at her parents and screaming for buying a doll on my way home a day. She told her parents to approach the ATM and push some buttons getting her money for the toy. She acted usual and normal, just like a usual thing she does every day. However, I don't believe that the young girl had any idea about how the money parents get from and how impolite she was, even how embarrassing her parents were.

To solve this problem, children should be helped to improve their learning. Teachers and parents should develop skills and identify the needs of children. The prevalent children's behavioural problems are to be corrected. A close partnership between schools, parents and educators is required.

Most importantly, parents should understand that children don't need to do all the things because they and the domestic helper are there for children. Yet, children should know how to do the jobs and realize they will be doing those things all by their own. All parents should take care of is letting their child handle stuff themselves and guiding them. Children need to gain maturity.

Please remember to give everything children want is not a sign of love. Love cannot be given to children in form of money and domestic helpers.

Yours faithfully,

*Chris Wong*

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