

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,

Spoilt Children in Hong Kong

As the number of spoilt children is surging in Hong Kong in the recent years, the problem arouses concern of the citizens. Therefore, I am writing to express my points of view to the issue. I would like to share the reasons behind this phenomenon and give suggestions on dealing with the problem.

First of all, due to the financial problem and the heavy burden of raising a child, there are lots of one-child families, meaning that parents and grandparents only need to take care of a child and the child has no siblings. Therefore, parents and grandparents do almost everything for the child and concentrate all the resources on him or her.

Besides, most of the middle-class families employ domestic helpers for child-minding as both of the parents need to work. As an employee, nanny always follows the employers and just does the things she can do for the little master. They help the little masters dress up, tie shoelaces, spoon-feed them. They cannot punish their little masters even if they do wrong. Thus, the children get used to relying on the domestic helpers. The spoilt children always lack life skills.

Furthermore, the parents nowadays have a distorted value. They think that giving the best materials and protection is a sign of love to children. They provide the children what they want. They seldom smack or cane their children. When their children did wrong, they just punish them lightly and do not find a method to correct their bad behaviours. Children are being overprotected.

Due to the above reasons, the spoilt children are unruly, self-centered, dependent, materialistic and lonely. They even have several behaviour problems. I have a little cousin who has no siblings and no relatives with similar age. He always plays computer games and video games alone. He is addicted to these gadgets like PSP and Wii. Some of the children always buy the latest gadgets and expensive brand clothes. Some of them are bad-tampered and always make tantrums. They are witty as they know then is the time to cry or shout to arouse parents' attention and get the toys or clothes they want. Some even punish or beat their parents or grandparents on street if they cannot get the things they want or go to the place they want to go. They are impatient to queue up and selfish to share things.

The problem is serious and cannot be neglected. There is no excuse to ignore the problem. Both parents and schools should take up the responsibility to solve the problem.

Parents should stop pampering their children. They need to teach children what to do instead of doing everything for them. They need to teach them the correct value, money management and the nine generic skills such as self-management and problem-solving. They should let their children do things by themselves step by step, at first, maybe some easy task like packing their schoolbag as well as tidying up their bed. They should remember their children need to be independent and take care of themselves one day. Parents and domestic helpers can just assist the growth of children but not play the role of raising them.

While for the schools, teachers should also let the children do more by themselves, let them pick up of their own responsibilities. They should also train the children with citizenship such as lining up and throwing rubbish into bins. They need to teach children how to care of the others through some group activities or even voluntary works.

The problem of spoilt children should be solved as soon as possible. Only having close partnership between schools and parents can solve it.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Wong
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