



Haf a A d a i

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Teaching and Nurturing

The new term has begun. The children's faces are full of life. Their cheerful voices echo through the air from morning, and their smiles are bright. Children's hearts seem to be filled with excitement at the prospect of new learning and new encounters. At the opening ceremony, one child announced the following. "I am not good at Kanji characters, so I will do my best to practice them. I will take my classes well and do my homework at home every day without fail." I strongly felt that each of the children had their own goals for the new school year.



I am heartened by the purity of these children's thoughts. I am strongly moved by their cheerful attitude of hope and determination to go forward. I believe once again that we adults must seriously consider how we can support and nurture these feelings and put them into action. When children increase their abilities one by one, not only the children themselves but also those of us who are watching around them become happy. We are also impressed. It is that moment when we are moved just to see a toddler learn to stand on his or her own feet. We can honestly say, "Well done! Good job! Good!" and you can imagine the scene where you and the child are shouting out with joy. I believe that this excitement is passed on to the child and leads to further motivation.

One of my favorite critics is Mr. Yoro Takeshi. In his book, he states that what is important



when raising a child is the concept of "care". For example, when plants grow, they encounter various natural conditions such as wind, sunshine, and sometimes storms. At that time, we should help plants to grow by supporting them with sticks, watering them, and sheltering them from the wind, and we should help them to grow by themselves. Sometimes we should correct the trajectory of a branch that is trying to grow in a strange direction by putting a hand on it from the side. He says that this is exactly the way to draw out the inherent power of a plant and raising a child is the same as this.

At the same time, it is important for children to recognize the importance of perseverance, continuity, and accumulation. We all want to escape from hardship and pain. However, unless we challenge ourselves to do so, we will never acquire knowledge and skills. There is no sense of fulfillment and no motivation for further improvement. Therefore, adults should not just lend a helping hand to children and make it easy for them. And they must help children develop



the strength to face difficulties on their own. The aforementioned idea of "care" naturally includes this as well. In other words, teaching is also important. (Those are the very Education.)

What we must then deal with wisely is not to be biased one way or the other, i.e., not to pamper them too much, but on the contrary, not to be too strict. We must pay maximum attention to the balance between the two. We must trust our children, and we must also be suspicious of them. If we make a mistake in these areas, we will be in trouble.

Let's cherish this milestone of a new school year, and let us, the teachers and parents, work hand in hand to "Educate" the children while fully accepting their desire to "be like this". Thank you very much for your cooperation.