

Revelations from Children

Linlin and Tiantian were classmates. Tiantian's parents were going on a trip and wanted us to help them look after their daughter for a few days. My husband and I readily agreed. We were only hoping to have another child to **spend the days** zhāoxiāngchǔ **<朝夕相处>** with only daughter!

The most excited one is that Linlin. She **begged** rǎngzheyào **<嚷着要>** her father to cook the best **dish** měiwèijiǎoyáo **<美味佳肴>** he knew how in order to welcome Tiantian's coming. She also said that she could share her desk with Tiantian. You could only imagine how happy it made us seeing her warm heart and unselfishness toward her friend.

Even before Tiantian's arrival, Linlin became **extraordinarily** yìcháng **<异常>** hard-working, making the room spotless and putting things in order. Whenever good things came along, she would think about Tiantian. Our Linlin, despite being a girl, was full of chivalry.

The arrival of Tiantian made our days **unusually** yìcháng **<异常>** easy. The two did get up without wake-up calls, did not need to be dropped off or picked up at school, and did not need reminders to do their homework. They would not fight or get on each other's nerves. You can only imagine the kind of harmonious relationship they enjoyed.

Our daughter and Tiantian were so close they **were** **about to** dà yǒu de qū shì **<大有.....的趋势>** ignore us. Seeing this even made my husband and I a little bit jealous.

朝夕相处: Literally to 相处 (spend time)

from 朝 (morning) to 夕 (evening)

嚷着要: to loudly make demands; 嚷

means to shout, to make noise

美味佳肴: delicious food. Literally,

beautiful taste and good food.

异常: unusual, extraordinary

异常: unusual, extraordinary

大有.....的趋势: have the strong

tendency or trend to ...

This evening, the two kids finished homework, and started to chat non-stop. One of them said, "I did not like Wang Duoduo. She only likes playing classmates who dresses pretty, and she **always** lǎoshì **<老是>** makes fun of others." Another said, "I hate Gao Chunlai, he is **most** zuìhuì **skilled at <最会.....了>** winning the teacher's favor..."

老是: always

最会.....了: be the most capable of

My husband and I glanced at each other. How could such young kids learn to gossip behind others? In all seriousness, we went up to them and told them squarely: "If you see others' faults, you should tell them in person. It's not good to talk behind their backs." My husband also added, "People need to get along and forgive others." But our daughter looked very confused, and asked in reply, "But sometimes don't you also talk about which friend is easy to get along with and which one is very selfish?" All of a sudden, this **question made us** bèiwèn d e **<被问得>** speechless. It was **dead quiet** in the room **we could hear a pin drop** yāquèwúshēng **<鸦雀无声>**.

被问得: be questioned to the degree that; 鸦雀无声: Literally "crows and sparrows make no sound," which describes utter silence. 启蒙老师: teachers that help children to receive the most rudimentary education

People often say that one cannot overlook the importance of **early-age teachers** qíménglǎoshī **<启蒙老师>**, among whom the parents are the first. These words are true. If it weren't for our daughter's protest, however, we would not come to realize that we were practicing double standards with the way we do things ourselves and what we require of our child. We were easy on ourselves but harsh to our child. It turned out that the child could also be our teacher.

Truthfully speaking, this time our child has really **taught** us **a lesson** shàngl e y ī k è **<上了一课>**: we came to a profound

上了一课: taught a lesson. 上 can mean to take a lesson or to teach a lesson.



realization: if you want to be a good parent, you first have
to regulate your own words and actions ^{yánxíng} <言行>.

言行: words (言语) and actions (行为).