

Pushy Parent, Successful Child -Investigation of Chinese Parents' Thoughts in Children's English Education

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ABSTRACT: English is one of the most widely used international languages in the world. China's demand for internationalization, the attention of parents and the huge population make the preschool education industry a sun-rising industry and the last original stock in the 21st century. With the gradual expansion of opening-door policy and the globalization of the economy, more and more parents realized the importance of English. A large proportion of parents choose to expose their children to learn English in a variety of ways before compulsory education. Therefore, it is very important to investigate parents' emphasis on children's pre-primary education.

KEY WORDS: Parents Preschool education English extracurricular interest

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I. INTRODUCTION:

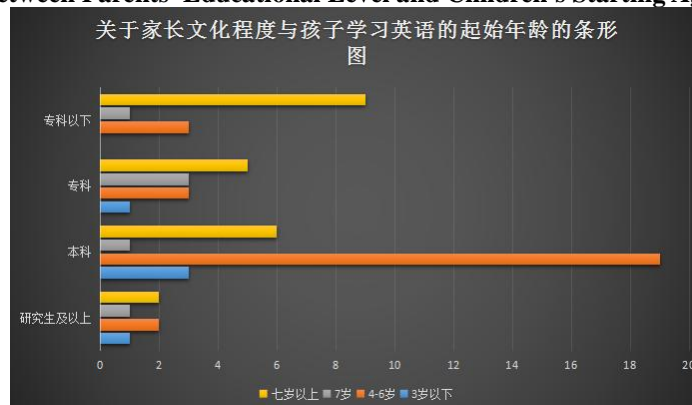
Influenced "One-Child Policy" in 1978 and the individual liberalization of choice, most modern families are still in the state of "one child per couple", especially urban families. "Parents are paying more attention to their children's education and welfare," said Vanessa Feng, a Harvard professor and expert on China's one-child policy. "this is a major shift after centuries of son preference. The only child got basically everything that boys used to get." It is such a huge change in attitude that more and more parents pay attention to the cultivation of their children and want to provide the best learning environment for their children. Nowadays, many parents have received a good education or known about the excellent education methods. They know clearly that English is of great influence and importance as a key to exist in the society. All kinds of experimental researches and reports on preschool English education have attracted the attention of parents. Concerned about their children's future career development, some parents who want their children to be successful send their children to preschool English training institutions in the belief that "the sooner the better". Eager to succeed, they sent their children to so-called bilingual science kindergartens and training institutions on the market without investigation, thus giving rise to the craze of "Crazy for Extracurricular Classes".

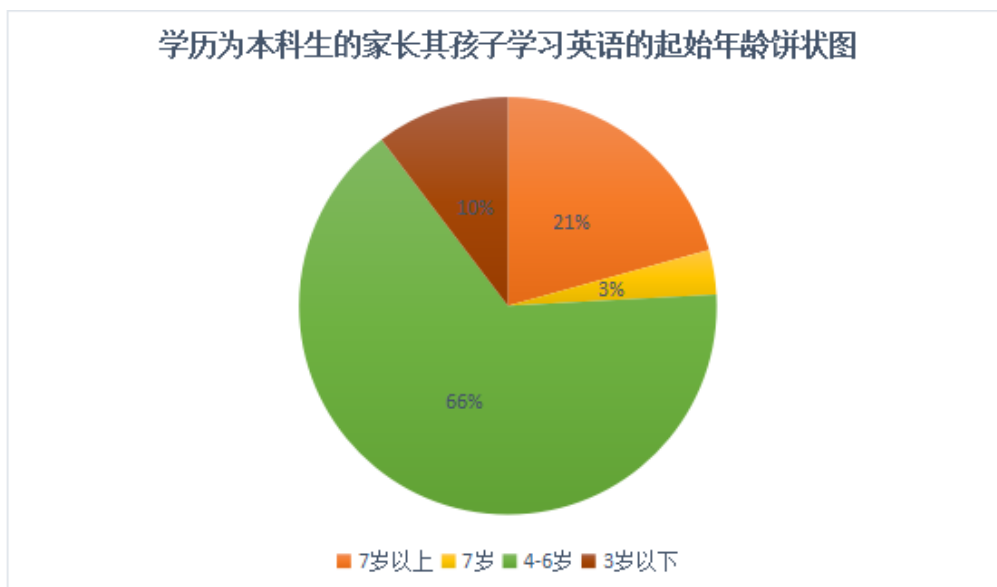
Questionnaire method

Based on the situation in Zhejiang Province, cluster sampling method is adopted to conduct the investigation and research in the form of questionnaire survey. Through random sampling, 2000 questionnaires are sent out and 1985 questionnaires are returned, with a recovery rate of 99.25%. Among them, 1970 questionnaires are valid, with an efficiency of 98.5%. The data obtained from the survey are analyzed and studied to make a study of the current situation, problems and causes of English extracurricular interest classes. Further empirical analysis and discussion are given.

Analysis of Questionnaire Data

1. The Relationship between Parents' Educational Level and Children's Starting Age of Learning English

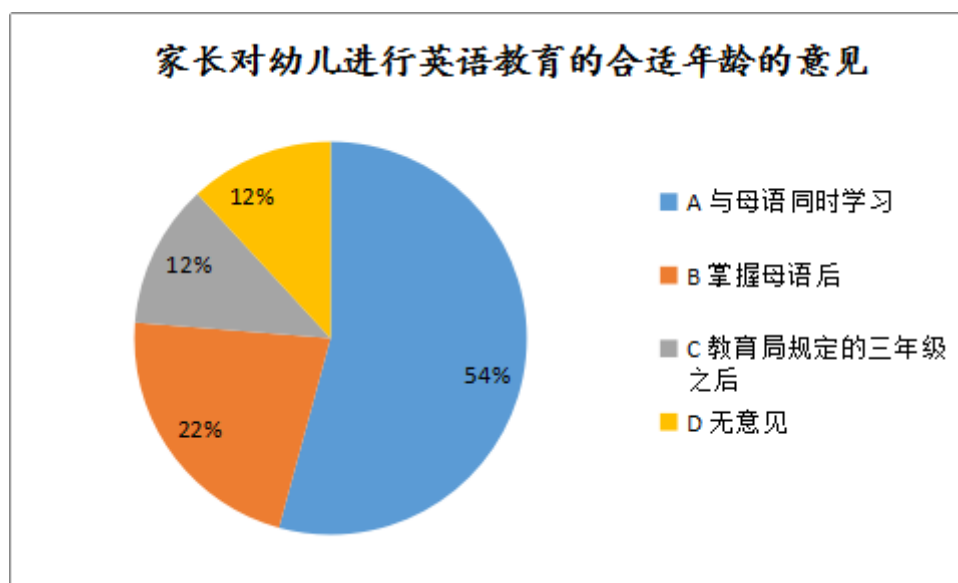




Among the highest proportion of parents are undergraduates, and 66 percent of their children started learning English between the ages of four and six, 10 percent were under three, 3 percent were seven and 21 percent were over seven. It is not hard to know that these children learn English at an early age which is before the school officially opened the English curriculum.

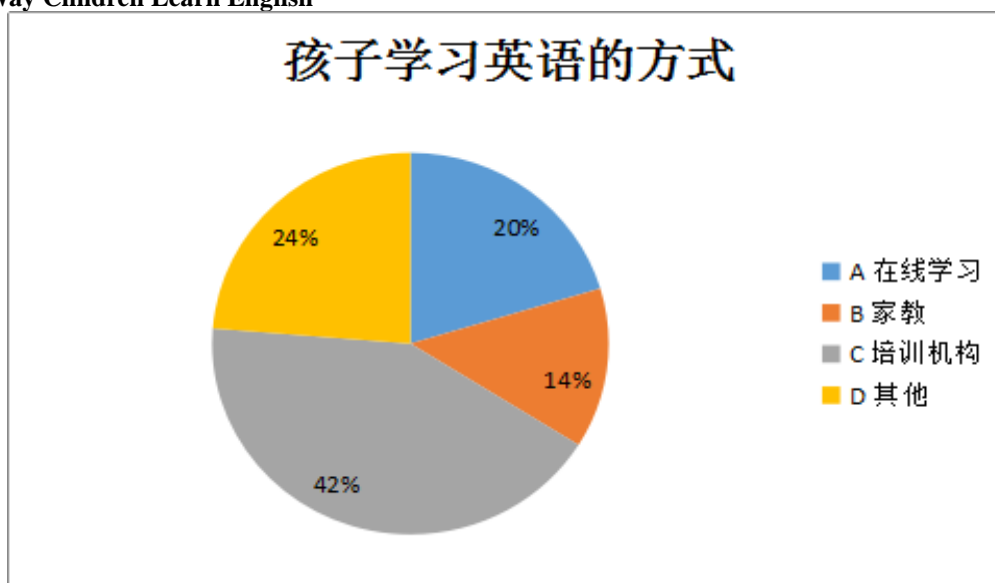
2. Some Opinions for Parents on the Appropriate Age for Children to Receive English Education

According to the chart's data, we can see that 54% of parents believe that the time children learn English should be the same as the time they learn the mother tongue, 22% of parents think children should learn English after the children fully master the language, 12% of parents said the time their children learn English should be prescribed by the education bureau of grade 3, and 12% of parents don't give comments.



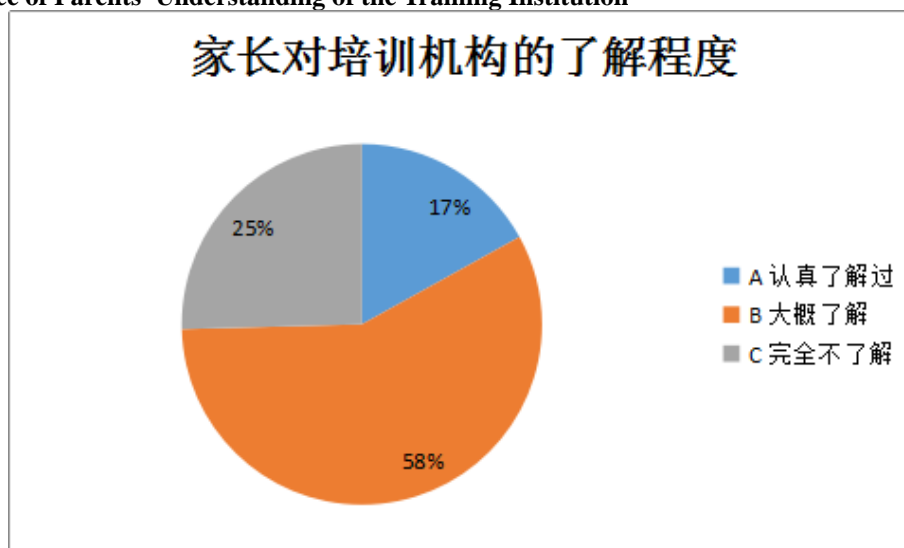
Most parents now say they will let their children listen to English nursery rhymes and teach their children some simple English words and 26 letters when they start to talk. They think it can develop children's intelligence well. Other parents, who believe children should learn English after they have mastered their mother tongue, say that if children learn two languages at the same time, they are likely to have a language disorder and it makes both languages difficult to learn. This shows that parents are not fully aware of their children's language learning.

3. The Way Children Learn English



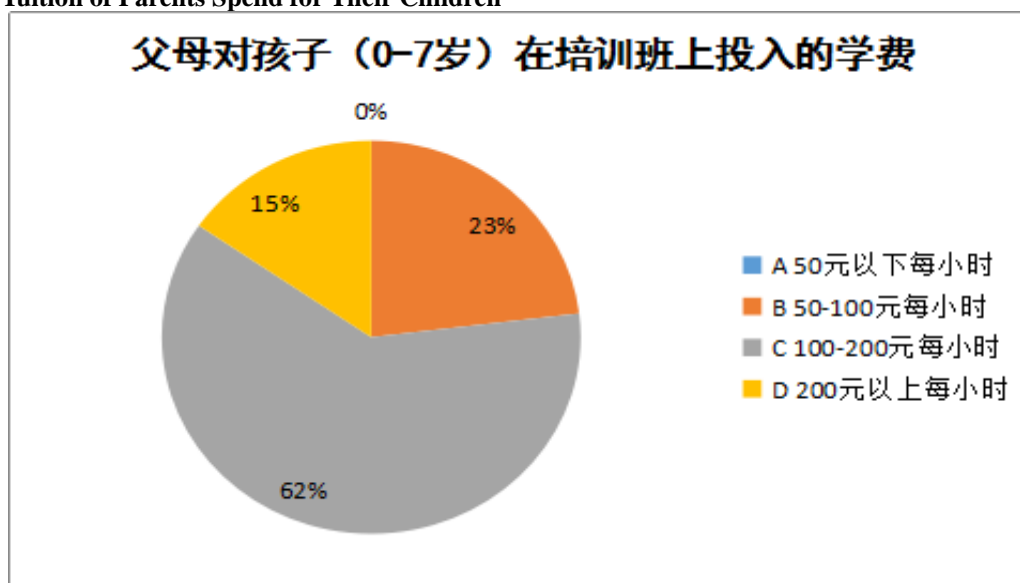
As is shown in the sector diagram, 14 percent of the children now receive additional English tutoring through private tutors, 20 percent receive additional English tutoring through online learning, 42 percent learn additional English knowledge in training institutions, and 24 percent learn English through some other means. These data show that training institutions still hold a very important position in the minds of parents. In the interview, we learned that there are still many parents worried about the online learning method, and many parents said that nowadays private tutors are mostly college students without experience. Thus the real educational institutions with rich teaching experience have become the most trusted place for parents to learn English.

4. The Degree of Parents' Understanding of the Training Institution



According to the survey data, 17 percent of parents have a total understanding of the training institutions, 25 percent of parents said they did not know the training institutions at all, and 58 percent of parents said they have a general understanding of the training institutions. The above data shows that most parents actually do not have a deep understanding of educational institutions. Many parents claim that sending their children to an educational institution is recommended by colleagues or friends, and they have not had a thorough understanding. This reflects the parents enrolled in the training class or have a certain blindness. Although parents will send their children to educational institutions to study, they actually do not care much about the level and quality of the educational institutions. They are just based on the word of the surrounding people, which is why many educational institutions do not pay attention to quality and care too much about publicity.

5. The Tuition of Parents Spend for Their Children



According to the survey, 62 percent of the parents who signed up for the training class for their children spent 100-200 yuan per hour in tuition, 15 percent spent more than 200 yuan per hour, and 23 percent spent 50-100 yuan per hour. More than half of parents invest more than 100 yuan per hour in their children's training programs. These data shows that parents are willing to spend money on their children's education, which also reflects the importance parents attach to their children's education and learning.

II. RESULTS AND COUNTERMEASURES

1. Parents are eager to see their children succeed

For parents, influenced by the family planning policy in 1978, most families have only one child. However, due to the impact of the Reform and Opening-up, most families' overall living standard is above the well-off life. That is to say, parents have enough money and funds to invest in the education of the only child. In today's era of information explosion, many parents have received a good education or know many excellent education methods, they clearly know that English as a key to go abroad, has its influence and importance that cannot be ignored. Penfield, a neuro-psychologist, has suggested that the best age for language learning is before the age of 10. During this time, the human brain is malleable. But from the beginning of puberty, the plasticity will disappear. Therefore, parents may think that second language learning should be started earlier, because after the age of ten, the brain's growth rate and the development rate of the first language will slow down, and the sensitive phase of language learning will end. In the course of the survey, we learned that many parents would listen to some simple and basic English songs or play English videos for their children when they began to learn to speak. And soon after their children get into the school, they actively look for tutoring agencies or even tutors for their children. Even for some relatively high fees, they are willing to accept, which reflects the parents' eager expectation for their children to become talents. But there are also a lot of parents expressed that they sign up for a training class to the child when they know their friends and relatives around them all sign up for the training class to their child. Being afraid of his child behind others, they also sign up for his child.

2. Adjust the Family Education Mode and Accompany Children to Grow Up Together

2.1 Parents Should Correctly Understand Their Role in the Family

Nowadays the society is a world that pursues the "fast", many parents in order to let the children get more and better resources, just blindly to the pursuit of money. In an attempt to use money for their children to build a strong world. However they ignore the child's inner world. At the time in using money for their children to build up a knowledge of the world, they also shut themselves outside the world of children. So for parents, they should have a correct understanding of their role in front of children. They are the parents at first, and then the person should take the responsibility. They should not only invest in their children's education, but also spend more time and energy on their children's learning and growth. As the saying goes: Parents are the best teachers for their children. Parents should do their best to set a good example for their children.

2.2 parents should learn to choose a reasonable way to invest in education

In modern society, the one-child family accounts for the majority. And the traditional concepts of "expecting the son to become the king" and "expecting the daughter to become the queen" are deeply rooted in most parents' minds, which make many parents pay more attention to their children's education at all costs. There are also a lot of parents in the children's education investment have the thoughts of blindly follow the comparison, and lack of the cultivation for children's interests and hobbies the rational thinking for their own education situation. Therefore, parents should choose the right way according to the child's age to avoid a kind of mentality of quick success and instant benefit. Remember to establish correct educational values and to create a good environment for children to "promote physical and mental health, cultivate comprehensive development". Thus can ensure the material and spiritual pursuit of the children.

2.3 parents should provide a good learning atmosphere for their children

"The mother of Mencius moved three times" is a story to find a most suitable environment for the child to study. So in the process of children's growth, parents should take the initiative to create a suitable place for them to study. For example, in spare time, put down the trivia in hand and read a good book with children, then share the experience together.

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