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Jun 24, 2021



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Jun 21, 2021

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While under-preparing children for Primary 1 will give them a culture shock, over-preparing them also has its pitfalls, says Ms Carean Oh, principal consultant of enrichment centre Writers Studio and a former head of department for science in a primary school.

Parents who hover over their children, constantly reminding them what to do and not to do, even whom to befriend, "deprive a child of the ability to choose, causing them to form stigmas early in life, which can impede healthy social relationships", says Ms Oh, who is in her 30s.

Equally demoralising is constant criticism over mistakes in worksheets. Instead, parents should guide their kids to learn from errors. "That way, they will respond better to criticisms made by friends in group work or when corrected by a teacher."

Ms Oh says she has seen overeager parents enquiring about enrichment five years before their child is due to enter Primary 1, and asking about the Gifted Education Programme when their child is just six years old. She cautions against pushing so hard so fast, as "some children can lose steam way before they reach Primary 4", when the programme starts.