



Encouraging Independence, Responsibility, and Embracing Cultural Differences



As parents of a curious little girl at St. Catherine's International Kindergarten, we feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a nurturing and inspiring school community. St. Catherine's is much more than a place for academic learning, it's a space where children are encouraged to grow holistically, develop

independence, and embrace the diversity of the world around them.

Raising our child in a multi-cultural family has been an enriching and rewarding journey.

It has taught us the importance of balancing the education our daughter receives at school with meaningful experiences at home, by fostering independence, teaching responsibility, and celebrating cultural differences.

We hope to support her growth not only as a student but also as a kind, confident, and empathetic individual.

The Role of Balance in a Child's Growth





The heart of our parenting philosophy is the belief that a child's development flourishes when there is a balance between school education and home-based learning. St. Catherine's plays a vital role in nurturing our daughter's growth. The school's emphasis on creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking is helping her discover new ways to approach challenges and express herself. The school has created a space where she feels confident enough to explore her interests and build meaningful relationships with classmates.

At home we reinforce the skills she has learnt at school by teaching responsibility through simple daily tasks, such as tidying up toys, setting the table, or caring for a plant. We hope this helps her understand that her actions matter and that she plays a valuable role in our family.

We also strive to balance the values of both her Chinese and English heritage. For instance, she's learned the Chinese concept of “家務” (household duties) and the importance of respecting elders, while the western culture of expressing her ideas and making independent choices add balance to the value



system we are creating. These small but essential lessons at home, combined with her experiences at school, are helping her develop accountability, independence, and confidence.

Challenges Along the Way

Like any parents, we've faced our share of challenges. One of our biggest realisations has been that raising a child isn't about creating a perfect, stress-free environment. Instead, it's about teaching our daughter how to navigate life's inevitable ups and downs with resilience and positivity.

There have been plenty of moments where things haven't

gone as planned. For example, when our daughter accidentally spilled water while helping set the table, we used it as an opportunity to teach her about cleaning up and trying again. Rather than focusing on the mistake, we emphasised the importance of effort and responsibility. It's in these small, imperfect moments that children learn valuable life skills like perseverance and problem-solving.

We've also faced the challenge of helping our daughter embrace her mixed cultural background. We enjoy celebrating both





cultures, Lunar New Year with her Chinese grandparents and Christmas with her English grandparents. It can sometimes be tricky to ensure she feels equally connected to both sides. We've worked hard to create a sense of balance while also encouraging her to appreciate the diversity of other cultures.

Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

Through these experiences, we've learned that parenting is about progress, not perfection. St. Catherine's has been a partner in this journey, providing a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment where our daughter

can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

At the same time, we've discovered the importance of everyday routines and home-based activities in complementing her education. Simple moments whether it's celebrating family traditions, exploring nature, or trying new activities together, play is an essential role in her development and helps her connect what she learns at school to the wider world.

We've also seen how exposure to new environments can enhance her growth. Simple outings to a nearby park or museum can spark



curiosity and teach valuable lessons. On occasions when we've travelled, we've seen her confidence grow as she tries new experiences, like practising words in a different language or exploring local customs. These moments show us how much children can learn when given the opportunity to engage with the world around them.

To other parents, we'd say this: don't feel pressured to make everything perfect. The small, everyday opportunities to teach and connect with your child are what truly matter. Together, we are raising a generation of kind, responsible, and capable

individuals who are ready to embrace the beauty and diversity of the world.

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