



多元文化家庭

隨著時代變遷與社會型態的多元化，我們生活中與外國人士接觸的機會日益增加，走在街頭上，偶遇異國婚姻與多元文化家庭的頻率也相形提升，於是我們好奇著每個家庭、每對父母在陪同孩子學習與成長的過程中，曾否因為文化大不同，在孩子教養上、親子溝通與互動上出現差異。邀請幾位本校的外籍家長與其孩子來分享曾因不同文化而發生的生活點滴及趣事；外籍家長與臺灣家長在教養觀上的不同，讓我們對多元文化家庭有更深入的了解。



On Intercultural Families in Taiwan

◎ Wego, ESL Teacher / Tom Bishop
(七平湯玲玲家長)



Raising and educating children in a foreign country in an intercultural family presents its own unique challenges. For the past ten years my children have attended local schools in Taiwan where the primary language and cultural context is in fact, foreign to me. Fortunately, their mother is from Taiwan and we both share the belief in the value of education.

We work hard to make sure that our children are getting "the best of both worlds" with a view of education from both a Western and Chinese perspective. Generally, a Western (American) perspective on education values a student-centered approach that seeks to stimulate the learner to pursue her own interests in the context of an overall educational curriculum that is more adaptable and flexible. The Chinese educational perspective tends to be more rigorous; creating a solid foundation of academics with set curriculum guidelines where testing and evaluation becomes the end-goal in the mastery of a subject. At times it may seem that these two different perspectives are in conflict. Most importantly however, is the children's overall personal growth and development, and that our own cultural perspectives have to cooperate.

Differing cultural perspectives on raising children has caused tensions in our family. For example, personal privacy and independence are important Western values. As an American, the idea of having your "own space" is important. It seemed all too logical to me that the children had their own bedrooms early on, and I was surprised to find that my wife didn't share my idea.

As you can see, raising and educating children in an intercultural family presents its own unique challenges. While tensions and differing opinions do arise, the goal of all parents is the same: To provide the best possible opportunities for our children. And for that reason I am happy to say that Taiwan is our home where education is emphasized and family is all-important.



我是一個混血兒，爸爸是紐約人，媽媽是臺南人，我出生在曼哈頓，直到兩歲才回到臺灣。我的鼻子像媽媽，髮色像爸爸，個性方面遺傳了媽媽的堅強，還有爸爸的溫柔與幽默。

我認為家裡最大的衝突常常是不同文化背景所產生的，例如：有一次，爸爸、妹妹和我一起去土城某個山上的亂葬崗，在那，我們看到一張很大的橢圓形石桌，旁邊繞著一圈石頭椅子，我們把這場景簡稱「DPP」，意思是「Dead People Party」，誰會沒事在一堆墳墓旁建這種東西呢？所以，我們猜想應該是給往生者開派對用的吧！吃晚餐時，我在餐桌上提到：「媽媽，你知道嗎？我們今天去亂葬崗，找到了『DPP』耶！」媽媽問：「『DPP』不是一個政黨嗎？」妹妹回答後，媽媽愣了一下說：「天啊！你們的笑話好黑喔！」我猜想她心裡一定在想：「爸爸到底在灌輸我們什麼樣的怪道理？」這種笑話開錯的事情，其實已經不是第一次了，還有一次我問爸爸：「在你們還沒結婚時，你也常開錯玩笑嗎？」爸爸回答：「是啊！我後來才知道中國人對死亡是很忌諱的，更不會拿死亡來開玩笑！所以我以前常被罵，常遭白眼……。」

小時候，餐桌通常都擺刀叉，所以不太會使用筷子，但是阿姨十分重視中國人的禮儀，所以要求我練習用筷子，看到阿姨用筷子吃東西好方便，又是夾、又是戳、又當攪拌器，想一想兩根小木棍竟抵得上我們餐桌上的刀和叉，而且用的不過是三根手指而已，真是神奇！看到阿姨用筷子很簡單，直到自己使用時才發現真是好難，要把兩根木棍分開，就讓我累了大半天，更別說別的了，最後我幾乎是用戳的方式吃完我的食物。阿姨為了訓練我，灑了一地的綠豆要我用筷子一個一個夾起來，當時我恨不得用手去撿，真是一大惡夢！到現在，我一想到那時夾綠豆的事情，手都還在抖。

教育也是令我頭痛的問題之一，我像是被兩邊拉扯，在美國重視快樂童年，到大學時才是開始用功的時候，而在臺灣剛好相反，我現在需要用功，等大一點，我回到美國讀大學時還得用功呢！我的教育問題使我的父母很擔心，每次我被媽媽拖去寫功課時，爸爸卻一直要我「享受人生」，我在這種很矛盾的情況下，常常感到非常的無奈。過了幾年，爸爸才勉強接受這種把小孩當美國大學生一樣看待的教育想法，但有時候他還是忍不住抽空找我們去玩。

