

Give your Child a Break

I have been working part-time for eight months as a tutor to a 15-year-old boy. He takes classes in piano, tae kwon do, violin, English conversation, and he also goes to one of the many cram schools in Asia.

The more I speak with him and get to know him; it makes me realize that one should have such a burden in their life, especially at such a young age.

He wants to be a scientist, a truly noble profession. However, he is worried that since he didn't do well in his middle school exam, he may have no chance of getting into a reputable high school. Without the right high school, it will be almost impossible for him to get into the right university. As a result, this boy, at the tender age of 15, is already facing the fact that his dreams of the future may already be over, just because of one exam.

No child should be faced with this type of pressure. This is the reason why more and more Asian children are taking their own life each year.

Children need to experience some enjoyment in life, and certainly, children will enjoy life more, and learn valuable social skills, by playing and interacting with friends after school. Parents who pile extra curricular lessons on their children should reconsider.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What extracurricular activities do you do or your child do?
2. Where do you find enjoyment in life?
3. What did you do on your last vacation?
4. What were some of your dreams when you were young?
5. Do you agree that the children of today need more time to enjoy their youthful years?