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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
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Press Release

Education Seminar Series (11) by the Faculty of Education, HKU

“Good Start? Grow Smart! - The Science of Parenting during Early Childhood”

The Faculty of Education of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) held the 11th Education Seminar Series entitled “Good Start? Grow Smart! - The Science of Parenting during Early Childhood” delivered by Dr Li Hui, Ms Diana Lee, Dr Carrie Lau and Ms Rhoda Wang on February 7, 2015.

At the seminar, Dr Li Hui firstly gave an answer to the title of the seminar that the emphasis should be on growing smart rather than having a good start. He then shared an in-depth analysis of the four parenting styles commonly observed in Chinese society, i.e. tiger mom, sheep mom, wolf dad and panda dad. Dr Li mentioned that ‘Who the parents are would definitely influence what the children will be.’ He further asked the audience to rethink what kind of parents they are.

In facilitating children’s learning in Chinese, Ms Diana Lee said that ‘learning should start with the home language as the sequence in learning languages is important.’ Parents’ engagement with children and provision of a language-rich environment could enhance children’s language development in their first six years. Dr Carrie Lau echoed the importance of parent involvement in English language learning and shared that ‘the quality and quantity of parent-child conversations and shared book reading are vital in facilitating children’s English vocabulary development.’ Dr Lau added the importance of the role played by the school. Both schools and families needed to work together to enable the teaching and learning of vocabulary in meaningful contexts.

In addition to families who play a major role in the upbringing of children, Ms Rhoda Wang mentioned the importance of Executive Function, which depends on three interrelated types of brain function, working memory, inhibitory control and cognitive flexibility. However, we are not born with these skills. Our potential in them must be built. Ms Wang emphasized that ‘one of the most crucial responsibilities of parents is to provide the support to let children have the most critical mental toolbox for learning prepared.’

The seminar drew a full house attendance at the Grand Hall of the Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre on that day.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Queenie Wong, Senior Manager (Development and Communications) (Tel.: 2219 4270 / Fax: 2540 6360 / E-mail: qlpwong@hku.hk). Press release and photos can be viewed or downloaded at <http://web.edu.hku.hk/press> and <http://web.edu.hku.hk/photo>.

February 10, 2015



From left to right
Dr Li Hui, Associate Professor
Ms Diana Lee, Lecturer
Dr Carrie Lau, Assistant Professor
Ms Rhoda Wang, Lecturer