



**What "Mind Your English" Parents Say**  
I would like her to pick up reading naturally and happily rather than by force. Summer Academy has helped me with my duty and it is now easier for me to further cultivate her reading habit.

I will read a story to Natalie at bedtime. She just likes to listen to stories but did not like to and didn't have the ability to read for herself even though I attempted many times for her to do so.



Knowing that it is she is in Primary 1 next year, where she has to learn to read and write, I decided to enroll her to Summer Academy's "Mind your English" classes at the beginning of this year.

Knowing that she has to learn to read, she was initially a bit reluctant. However, one fine evening, after attending two to three classes, she took me by surprise by taking the initiative to pick one of her usual story book and read to me. No doubt the reading is not quite there yet, but for me, sending her to the English class is already bearing fruit. As a parent, I felt that it has been a bit difficult to convince her to read for herself. I would like her to pick up reading naturally and happily rather than by force. Summer Academy has helped me with my duty and it is now easier for me to further cultivate her reading habit.

From my observation, after attending the English class, Natalie has become enthusiastic about reading. She has picked up more vocabulary but there is still a lot more for her to learn. At home, she has learned to pick up a story and read for me sometimes. For more difficult books, she still needs guidance from me but she takes the effort to try. For me however, the most important thing is the process of learning that she has acquired rather than the result, which I trust will come eventually.

In the English class, Natalie is also learning writing skills. The child is first guided to begin by writing a few full sentences of essay together with pictures illustrated by the child.

Today, Natalie is more confidence in expressing her thoughts through writing. She loves to do draw. From time to time, she will draw and write on a little slip of paper and give it to me and her daddy, expressing her emotions. We find them very interesting.



**What "Little Dragon Mandarin" Parents Say**  
To love the Chinese language and practice is in life is a big task for Natalie and now she is willing to try it. This is a good start to learn a language. We are happy of her

progress so far.

Natalie has little opportunity to practice Mandarin in her daily environment. She does learn Mandarin at school. I know she tries her very best to write and speak but she would tell us "I don't like Mandarin". As she is going to Chinese school next year, I am preparing her and was looking for a friendly-learning environment to cultivate her interest in learning Mandarin. Before I decided to enroll her to the Summer Academy Chinese Program called 'Little Dragon', I approached her to go for trial class. I told her she could make her decision to proceed or otherwise after trial class. Initially, she refused but after asking many times, she eventually became convinced to try.

So, it really surprises me that after her first trial class, she keeps pestering to enroll her to Chinese Class. She told me, "Mummy, I like the Chinese class. I want to go for the Chinese Class."

In the class, Natalie is learning to write and read. The teacher is from China and she speaks proper Mandarin. The program also uses multimedia – attractive illustration and sounds to deliver the lessons. Perhaps because of this interactive way of learning, her interest in learning Mandarin is sparked. Nowadays, she responds to us in Mandarin if spoken to in Mandarin. Of course, there is still a lot of Chinese vocabulary she doesn't know and she will start to combine with English. But when we correct her, she takes the initiative to reverse it to Mandarin. To love the Chinese language and practice is in life is a big task for Natalie and now she is willing to try it. This is a good start to learn a language. We are happy of her progress so far.

In general Natalie just like to come to Summer Academy because she loves to learn and it is fun to learn here.

Chris Cheah (Natalie's mum)

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