



1. Useful Study Tips for Young Learners



- Encourage good study habits by scheduling regular homework time and offering help and encouragement when necessary.
- Let your child teach you what they learned in class. Look at the pages in the book your child studied. Ask them to identify pictures and name objects.
- Put stickers around the house labeling objects students have recently learned. This helps to bring language alive and gives learners day-to-day exposure.
- Ask your child to copy new words/characters ten times each. This improves handwriting and reinforces word recognition and good spelling.
- Help your child make a 'personal dictionary'. In a notebook, write a letter of the alphabet at the top of each page. Start with A and end with Z. Children can record new words learnt at LCA or at school on the appropriate page. They can draw pictures to illustrate the meaning, give the English translation or use it in a sentence. This can be a great way to review.
- Listen to Chinese cassettes – for example music with Chinese lyrics or storytelling.

- Watch appropriate Chinese DVDs/television programs suitable to the age and level of student:
- Encourage children to read to you every day.
- Make sure they are actually using those CDs that you paid for at the start of the course. Too many kids never even take off the cellophane wrapping on their CDs. Your child can learn a lot from reviewing material from each unit on the tapes.
- If you can speak even a little Chinese, don't be afraid to use it with your child. Don't be afraid that your child will learn bad pronunciation-that's one of the reasons you send them to us! But the more exposure they have to the language, the better they will become at Chinese.
- Let them watch cartoons and movies in Chinese. Children love cartoons, and seeing them in Chinese will only increase their desire to learn. Go to www.youtube.com and search 'Chinese cartoons', 'Mandarin kids TV' etc.

One of the best ways you can help with your child's education is to take part yourself. Why not sign up for a course yourself. Come to LCA together with your child and learn Chinese together.

2. Be Realistic about What Your Child Can Do

- All students have active and passive knowledge. This means that students can understand and recognize more than they can say or write.
- Focus on what children know rather than what they have forgotten. Students often personalize new words. Lilly might remember "doll", "skipping rope" while Tom remembers words like "dinosaur", "robot".
- When children acquire their mother tongue, they understand and speak before they are capable of reading and writing. This is also true when learning a foreign language.
- Foreign language learners often go through a 'silent phase' when beginning to learn a language. This is normal. They are listening and noticing language. When they are ready, they will speak.

- Learners need to encounter language many times over a period of time before they 'know' it. Don't expect your child to 'know' it all after the first lesson. The teacher will review words in the next lesson to help students remember.
- Studies show that learners who have regular exposure to another language before puberty are more likely to have better language skills (including pronunciation) by the time they are adults.
- Making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process.



3. At Home

- Ask your child what they did in class and to show you, do homework together.
- Have your child read to you and explains/translate.
- Label household objects and rooms such as television, sofa, bathroom and kitchen etc.
- Let your child teach you Chinese.
- Listen to and sing to Chinese songs, download the lyrics from the internet.
- Buy Chinese computer games.