

**ABOUT THIS SERIES**

We talk to the parents behind your favourite family brands.

**PARENT EXPERT  
Ng Gim Choo**

60, group managing director of Etonhouse, an international education chain. She has a daughter, 34, and two sons, 32 and 27.

**● LEARNING THROUGH FUN**

When she was young, it was a challenge to get my daughter interested in her mother tongue. I always forced her to remember Chinese words and *do ting xie* (spelling). When I realised my mistake, I tried a non-threatening approach. This time, I got her a calligraphist to teach her the strokes, and she learnt to enjoy the language.

**● YOU CAN QUESTION ME**

At our schools, the teachers place emphasis on building an inquiring mind. We encourage the children to question and analyse, instead of merely memorising. The world is now very different and changing so fast. It's critical that they know how to think out of the box and develop problem-solving skills.

**● EVERYONE IS UNIQUE**

You may have your favourite child, but you must never show it. That was wise advice from my grandma. Treat all your kids fairly, and don't compare them. You shouldn't ask: "Why can't you be like your *kor kor* (elder brother)?" Remember that everyone learns at a different pace and has unique talents.

**● WHAT I WISH MORE PARENTS KNEW**

Don't talk down to your child. Of course, when he's young, he'll listen to you. When he grows up, he'll be rebellious and won't want to communicate with you. So you want to be seen as his friend. Till this day, my children will open up to me. Take my younger son, who shared: "Mum, I've a girlfriend." Some time later, he updated: "Mum, I've another girlfriend." *(laughs)*



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EXPERTS NOW SAY YOU SHOULD WEAN AT 4 MONTHS!

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# Young parents

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**PREGNANT?**  
STAY AWAY FROM LIVER & DANG GUI

WORKING MUMS ISSUE

## YOUR CAREER vs HIS GRADES

DO STAY-AT-HOME MUMS RAISE MORE SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN?

10 best playgrounds in Singapore (parent-tested!)

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**\* Exclusive!**

**"I SPENT \$100K TO CONCEIVE MY KIDS"**

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