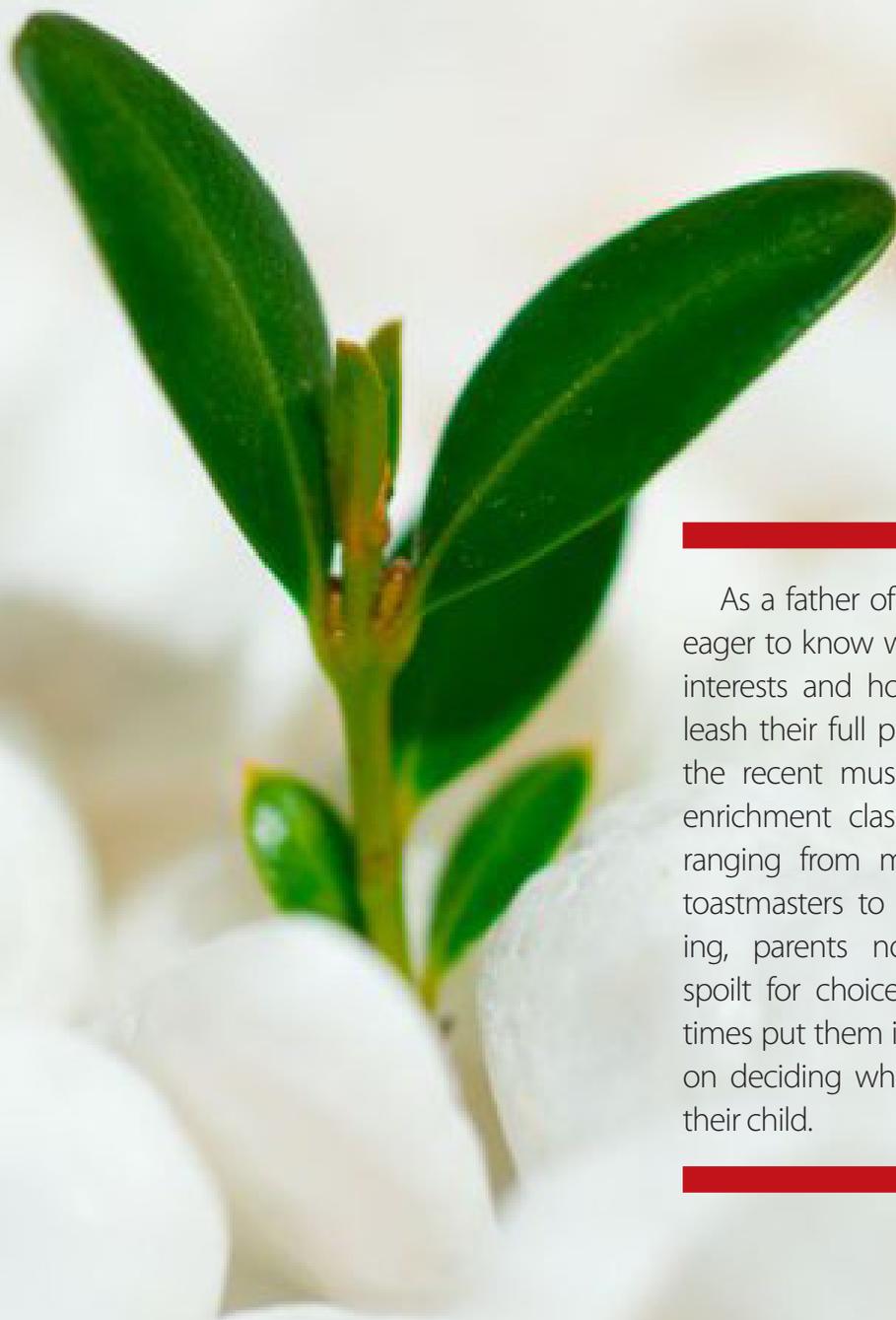


Decoding Your **CHILD'S TALENTS**

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As a father of 2 boys, I am eager to know what are their interests and how can I unleash their full potential. With the recent mushrooming of enrichment classes available, ranging from music, drama, toastmasters to pottery-making, parents nowadays are spoilt for choice. This sometimes put them in a dilemma, on deciding what is best for their child.

Thanks to my prior knowledge in Chinese astrology, I have an advantage in figuring out the hidden talents of my 2 children. “Ba Zi” (八字), also known as “8 Characters” in Chinese, is an ancient science developed more than 2000 years ago for the purpose of predicting one’s destiny. Today, it is still a very popular practice by many Feng Shui (风水) professionals. However, people did not know that this is also a useful tool to understand the intrinsic characteristics and innate ability of a child. With the birth details of a person, we convert the English date and hour to a destiny chart, based on the Chinese solar calendrical system. Traditionally, the Chinese believe that everyone is bestowed with a set of “Ba Zi” the moment we are born. Not only do we have different life journeys, we also think and behave uniquely. To simply put, each set of destiny chart is made of different stars. The stars are broadly categorized into 5 main types. Each star is associated with certain basic attributes and characteristics. (You may refer to the table below) In the study of “Ba Zi”, everything calls for balance. An overbearing presence of any star in a chart causes the star to ex-

hibit its negative nature, which inevitably influences the child’s thinking process and behaviour. For instance, children who have excessive ‘Resource’ stars in their chart tend to procrastinate and day-dream. They will also fall sick frequently. All these will have an impact on their learning journey. With this knowledge, I normally advise parents (with children who fall under this category) to let their child take up a sport, to build up the child’s body constitution and concentration (as you can see from the table, sports is also connected to discipline).

One of my client son’s “Ba Zi” has both positive ‘Friend’ and ‘Resource’ stars. At the age of one, he was able to speak in complete sentences and stood out among his peers. He also possess strong memory and analytical power. When I see him, I see a debator, lawyer or a motivational speaker in the making. In order for him to fully maximize his talent and potential, it will be best to develop his critical thinking and presentation skills. Understanding “Ba Zi” helps us to make informed decisions, not only about ourselves, but how we want to shape our children’s future. Parents can take the appropriate actions to develop their child’s talent and value systems, and may even help to steer him or her away from undesirable habits.



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STAR NAME	POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES	NEGATIVE ATTRIBUTES	TALENTS
Friend	Confident, Articulate	Stubborn, Hot tempered	Oratorical
Output	Sociable, Intelligent	Rebellious, Snobbish	Creative
Wealth	Hardworking, Thrifty	Spendthrift, Greedy	Entrepreneurial
Authority	Discipline, Courageous	Dishonest, Indecisive	Sports
Resource	Kind-hearted, Polite	Lazy, Pessimistic	Analytical