

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinion about whether school should encourage children to be competitive. After I have recently attended a debate on this topic, my point of view has changed.

Until now, I perceive how important a competitive attitude is. I have neglected that it is the most common motivation of children to persist in an activity. Previously, I had no idea that children will give up easily and they will not consider the complex principle behind as their mindsets are rather simple. Therefore, I believe that competitions will make them become eager to win merely, which may distort the principle behind the competitions and therefore make the whole thing become meaningless. In fact, these kinds of competitions help them to set up a goal by putting victory as a final result in order to arouse them to keep on engaging in that activity with positive motivation. As the debate has mentioned, it is the best way for them to learn persistence if they know the goals unequivocally. Consequently, they have a clear direction to put one's best effort into achieving goals that lie ahead.

One the other hand, there are positive effects of competing with others, with one of which being improving the ability of the children. Without competitions, schools are not having occasions to encourage children to be competitive and children themselves are not sure what to obtain in the end. However, in the debate, it was also mentioned that without some tests, the children would never have known where they have reached. In other words, these tests show the ability levels of theirs, and they can have a clear understanding about their capabilities. Moreover, they can self-evaluate their shortcomings when facing failure. As a result, they are more eager to practice hard to enhance their abilities.

To summarize, competitive attitude is not a totally bad thing. It is a motivation of children to persist in an activity and encourage them to do better. It is only the two sides of the same coin, which we should ponder about. Guiding them to have the want of winning is not a potential hazard. Oppositely, it provides them with preparedness to face the obstacles that may be lying ahead in a healthy manner. This is how this debate has changed my thought.

Yours truly,  
Chris Wong