

## JUN 2003 EMAIL TEXT

From: GFI admin [admin@gfi-singapore.org]  
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2003 11:49 PM  
To: Undisclosed-Recipient;;  
Subject: June Mailer

Hi folks

FUN. Time to have some fun. Fun fare cum dinner cum get together - June 14 (Sat) at 12 Jalan Segam. All are invited. It is meant to network parents! If you can make it that will be wonderful. There will be games stall planned for children to run them and they will get the chance to earn pocket money. If you come, email admin@gfi-singapore.org with the number of adults, children (ages) and a dish you will be bringing for about 10 folks. More details and the current status as to food/game stalls will be up on the web soon (I hope). If your children intend to put up a stall and run it, do provide the details too - some examples include candle shooting with water pistol, 'fishing', baloon sculpturing.

Update class schedules are on the web for the second half of the year. There are some not posted yet but in the pipeline, so do check back.

There are also 2 Simei RC Talks coming up 20 / 27 Jun (Friday) - "Motivating your kids towards EM1" and "Wise parents ... great kids". These are informative talks to inform the community about parenting knowledge as well as grounds for potential gathering attendees. You are welcome to join and invite your friends. This is not on the web yet but should be up soon.

Survey. New survey is up - you should realise now it's one a month. The old surveys are still available on a link on top of the current survey too.

Conference will be at PUB auditorium. Do keep the weekend of 14/15 Nov 2003 (Friday/Saturday) free and meet the Ezzos in person at the conference.

Continue to visit the forum and spread the word, you folks are doing great, keeping us productive. Keep those emails coming and yes, drop us a note when something works to encourage the others and a private note to your facilitators if you need to any time just to clarify and explore why certain things did not work.

May the Lord continue to shower His love to all of you and may we all continue on this journey of learning and discovery under His guidance.

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but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint      Isaiah 40:31

Greetings from Jeremy and Suan Ai  
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log into [www.gfi-singapore.org](http://www.gfi-singapore.org) for info on parenting resources

## REVIEW COUCH TIME / EDUCATION / MEAL TIME FUN

**Child: Is it true that in ancient China, parents don't know each other until they get married?**

**Parent: That happens everywhere, kid, everywhere!**

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### **Comment on the survey - arguments in a marriage.**

The survey is a good indicator to us that each marriage is unique. The general perception that there is a more prevalent issue cannot help us – what matters most is to know the challenges in our family so that we can work on them – have you checked with each other if you both agree?

### **Back to spousal relationships.**

Key principle worth revisiting – when our kids grow up, we will be 'empty nesters'. One principle taught is **couch time**. We can hear it now – 'Oops!' That's what the email list is for – to remind us. Spend time with our spouse with the children well aware of our 'couch time' and need to be left alone. That sends the message that we are actively working on our relationship, our children will know that the home is a safe and warm place to be (and they cannot out-smart their parents by going to another when the other denies permission!!!). Husbands, when was the last time you dated your wives out for dinner? Took a stroll together? Talked with each other about happenings in your family in a calm setting? Single parents. With the concept of time, when was the last time you took a stroll together with your children? A meal together? What about your friends – have you considered making time with them? That's important too. Making time is worth the time.

### **Singapore's education - Handling EMx, streams in secondary schools.**

Streaming happens in primary four. PLSE results lead one into special, express, normal academic or technical stream in secondary schools. Statistics for you to digest: About 90% will be in EM1 and EM2 (year 2002). About 95% will go on to secondary schools (See page two). The main difference between EM1 and EM2 would be EM1 having Higher Mother Tongue. EM3 scales down the syllabus and science is left out. The focus should be to concentrate on **making improvements based on your child's abilities**. If we are concerned only whether our kid gets onto EM1 or EM2 or express stream or if we become too contented (in Singlish, aiyah, EM2 can already lah), we missed the opportunity of bonding with our children, of teaching them the lesson of life, of giving our best because God gave His best to us.

We know it can get challenging, especially when our kid is academically less inclined – that's where parents must adjust expectations. Samantha is in the gifted programme and Josiah will be taking his streaming this year (no gifted). For Elliot, we need to take baby steps to encourage him! (Talk about adjusting expectations!) The joy comes when our perseverance pays off (which may be once a year) – when any of our child makes improvements, no matter how small, no matter in academic or sports. We know parents hope to get their kids into better schools because better schools means better environment. Consider then the importance of **moral training**. If that is done well, the impact of the environment can be cushioned. We want our children to manage life well, not just school. We want them to allow God to work in their lives, to love and be loved. Whether at the top of a class, or bottom of a class, it applies.

Where teens are concerned, influence is the word. If relationships are not well, it will be harder but not impossible for parents to humble ourselves to mend relationship issues to move to influence. Remember, **parenting is a lifetime**, not just up to age 21. There is always hope.

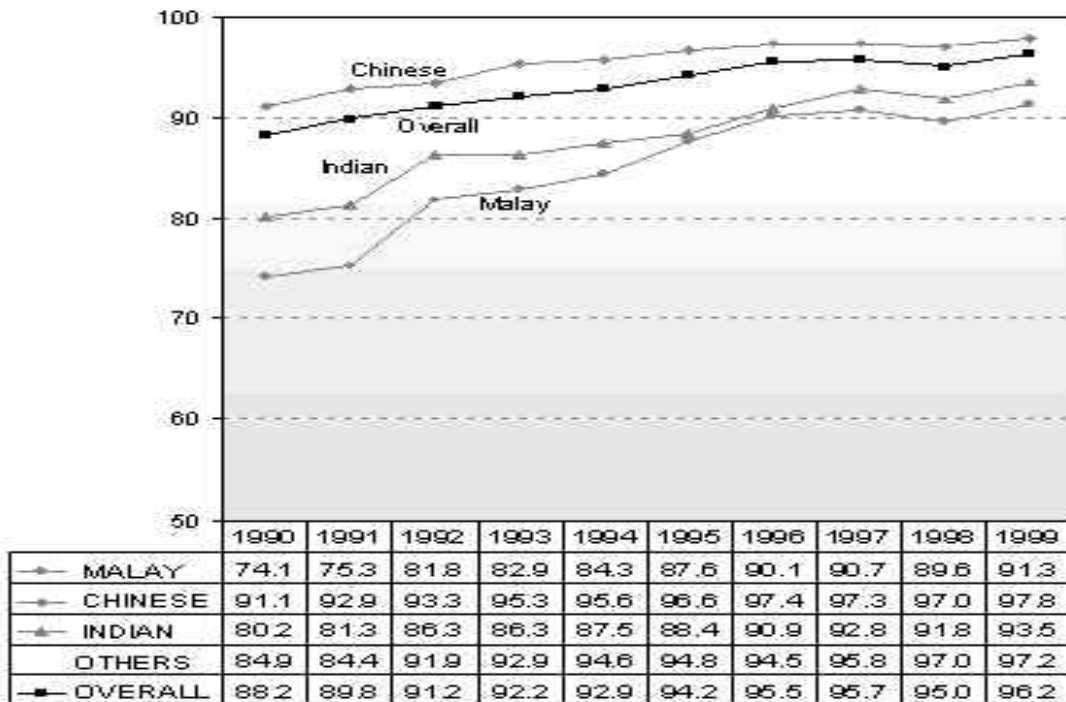
### **Meal time fun**

After dinner one evening, our family was talking about being upset. Samantha brought up that she may not be able to tell us that she is upset when she is. So she jokingly suggested this: if she closes the door to her room and her favourite red teddy bear is sitting outside, she is upset and needs help! Surprise! Within a week, she used that. Guess who spotted the bear – Elliot! This highlights the importance of meal time talk and ideas during moments of non-conflict. Yes, we worked through things with her (exam stress) and she is better. Daddy is trying to look for a nice big blue bear for himself, mummy a purple one – anyone has any to spare?

Jeremy and Suan Ai  
June 2003

<http://www1.moe.edu.sg/press/2000/pr30082000.htm>

Percentage going on to secondary schools (including EM3) in year 2000.



<http://www2.moe.edu.sg/esd/table19.asp>

Primary 6 (year 2002) figures:

EM1	EM2	EM3	Total
9614	37876	5791	53281

EM3 is about 10% (5791/53281 is about 10%).

<http://www1.moe.edu.sg/primary.htm> (More information about primary education and streaming.)