

Nurturing Child Prodigies

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The controversy over the gifted children has been sparked by two whizz kids: nine-year-old March Boedihardjo who was accepted by the mathematics department of Baptist University and Ho Hoi Lam, who is to study medicine at Chinese University.

However, these talented prodigies are often ignored by the community.

As they are still young they would find it hard to make friends with university classmates who, because of age differences, are likely to treat them differently. They will lose contact with many of their peers because they do not see them often. As a result, they may become lonely, focusing only on their studies instead of socialising with their friends, such as having a barbecue or going to cinema.

In the territory, there are few education centres to nurture these clever kids. Worse still, normal schools pay little attention to them. Eventually, not only is their natural talent not fully realised but also they would feel much more depressed and confused handling it on their own.

Every effort should be made by the government to ensure that these kids have all the support they need. Our society will reap the rewards in the long run.