

Educational Enlightenment from the Practice of the Home-based Guidance Project for Infants and Young Children in the United States

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Abstract : The early childhood education of infants and young children in the United States started early, developed rapidly, and achieved good results. There are many successful experiences that we should learn from. To this end, this paper discusses the enlightenment given by the practice of the American infant family home guidance project for reference.

Keywords : American Infants and Young Children; Family; Home Guidance; Project Practice; Educational Enlightenment

Household guidance is one of the forms of early education. It uses various methods to enter the community to give regular education and guidance to families of infants and young children, so as to help parents establish correct parenting concepts, master a variety of parenting methods, better guide children, and promote healthy growth of infants and young children.

1. Theoretical basis and design of the American household guidance project

1.1 Theoretical basis

The American Household Guidance Project is based on the development-oriented parenting theory, which is a family parenting theory about how parents should pay attention to and support the development of children in various fields. The theory has the following basic concepts: First, parents need to realize that the development of infants and young children in various fields is accumulated slowly, so they should actively care about the development process of infants and young children in the process of parenting. Second, parents must provide infants and young children with a safe environment and good communication channels, and can guide infants and young children through high-quality parent-child interaction, so that they can develop healthily. Third, parents should adapt to the actual development of infants and young children at various stages, and can flexibly apply a variety of parenting skills to promote the development of infants and young children.

1.2 The design and implementation of the household guidance project in the United States

Judging from the practical experience in the United States, the home guidance model can be divided into the following types: The first is the service model with infants and young children as the core. The key to this model is to provide satisfactory services to infants and young children. Instructors design various forms of activities for target infants and young children and carry them out in a family environment. Under this kind of activity, the main task of parents is to imitate learning, that is, to carefully observe the instructor's behavior, learn the latest game design ideas and methods, and be able to independently design games for infants and young children. The second is a service model with parents as the core. This model focuses on addressing the needs of parents in parenting and the general needs of families, such as how to effectively access community resources. Mentors spend a lot of time listening to parents' needs and parenting-related issues, and building trusting relationships to provide them with support and help. Under the guidance of the development-oriented parenting theory, the American home-based guidance project needs to start from the advantages of the parent to achieve high-quality parent-child interaction, so that the parent and infant can have a safer and more pleasant interactive experience.

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2. Educational enlightenment from the practice of household guidance project for infants and young children in the United States

2.1 Rethinking the model of government-led, social organization participation

From a certain perspective, only when the government formulates and implements relevant public policies can it be more efficient to guide families in child rearing. Simply put the government should play a role in early childhood education. Relevant experience shows that the government is willing to provide services for disadvantaged groups and provide a good environment for poor families with young children, but the “pro-poor” policy alone cannot meet the childcare needs of families of all income levels. Moreover, the family income status is not able to determine the quality of the family upbringing environment, and some families with high income levels also have limited ability to raise children. Therefore, the scientific introduction of private resources and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms and platforms will be more conducive to scientific education and benefit more and more families. However, there are still some important issues to be clarified under this model: First, the introduction of private institutions to implement early education does not mean high fees or services that only rich people can enjoy. Identify public input and actively take responsibility for early childhood education. Second, in order to allow more non-governmental organizations to participate in social service work, the government should establish a sound incentive policy to ensure that non-governmental organizations can obtain more reasonable project benefits. The third is that the government should actively undertake the release of industry standards, access standards and other aspects of the institutional system, in order to improve the quality of non-governmental organizations’ projects.

2.2 Learn from international experience and provide high-quality educational services for families in need

It is very important to provide various kinds of help, such as medical treatment, to families in need. From the perspective of infant welfare, when the nuclear family is affected by various factors and cannot perform its early education obligations in time, providing assistance to family childcare is an important way to relieve the pressure of family parenting and promote the healthy development of infants and young children. Many western countries regard preschool education as a service provided by infants and young children and their families that can solve family parenting problems, expand family functions, and promote employment. Therefore, providing parenting assistance to families is a key part of the early education system in most Western countries. According to relevant experience, family parenting support policies include paid parental leave, medical services, etc. Among them, regarding the establishment of the community parenting guidance and consultation service system, the policy suggestions are as follows: First, establish a team of helpers, that is, build an education guidance team that has been systematically trained and has a strong sense of responsibility. At the same time, it is necessary to comprehensively consider the team’s salary, benefits, etc., the second is to provide workplaces and strengthen infrastructure construction; the third is to ensure sufficient operating funds, and to do a good job in daily operations, project evaluation, etc. Fourth, pay close attention to community income for families with weaker parenting needs and abilities, follow up surveys and collect data to prepare for providing personalized services.

2.3 From focusing on medical-educational integration to early intervention to parental participation

In fact, from a very early age, the society’s early childhood education services for infants and young children have followed the concept of medical education integration and early intervention, providing early prevention, early intervention and other services for family infant early childhood education, so that more special infants and young children and families benefit. But now the problem of parenting by grandparents is more prominent, and parents’ awareness of parenting needs to be improved, and their responsibilities need to be strengthened. Therefore, raising parents’ awareness of parenting and allowing them to actively participate in the parenting process has become an important part of early childhood education services. To allow parents to participate, the government must do the following: First, to extend the connotation of parental participation, from the traditional policy of only focusing on social and public services to allowing parents to participate in various forms of public activities, rationally plan time to organize appropriate activities in the family parent-child activities allow parents to become developing individuals and realize the common development of infants and parents; the second is to be fully aware of the relationship between parenting instructors or families, and to handle the relationship between them well. On the one hand, parents may take into account the professionalism of service work. In addition, due to differences in family structure and living habits, the level of education received by grandparents and parents is also different. On the other hand, families’ requirements for personalized services are gradually increasing, which further increases the difficulty of parenting guidance, which may result in poor policy performance. For the above problems, the government needs to formulate comprehensive policies to encourage parenting instructors to effectively implement early childhood education, guide parents of

infants and young children to participate effectively, and strengthen knowledge training in all aspects. Also, while most community services are free, households are still consumers. Therefore, the government should also encourage families to make suggestions for efficient parenting guidance. For example, parents can participate in community project planning, organization arrangements, etc., so that they can supervise the implementation of social projects and provide more high-quality resources for social projects to enhance the family's "ownership" status to improve the quality and level of comprehensive services.

2.4 Break through the shackles of traditional social service models and strengthen household guidance

Various forms of services have been provided for early childhood guidance in my country, such as parent salons. However, these contents still cannot meet the needs of most families, which also shows that social services need to be innovated. As an important intervention method in the American social and public service system, household guidance has been widely used in infant care, family education and other aspects. Based on the experience of the United States, my country can adopt the following policies: First, it is necessary to strengthen professional parenting knowledge guidance services, build a training system, strengthen the guidance of household instructors, and provide appropriate work allowances. The second is to build a supervision and return visit system to improve service quality. The third is to effectively plan the household guidance process, build a big data platform, and conduct follow-up surveys on social and family parenting conditions and needs.

3. Conclusion

In a word, the practice of the home-based guidance project for infants and young children in the United States has provided new ideas for early childhood education in my country. We must also actively absorb and learn from the favorable parts, break through the constraints of the traditional social service model, strengthen home-based guidance, and provide families in need provide quality parenting services.

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