**Real Understanding**

**(For kids)**

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 What is the real understanding for kids? Is that mean understanding only their physical development? Or is that mean understanding only their emotion? If someone ask you which is more important what would you say? Let me tell you my opinion that according to my experience.

 When i was young my father always worried about my ages. Because, although i was born in 1995, my birthday was February 25th. His thinking was this. if i just born 4 days later, i could be a “normal child” who was born in suitable time. My father said to me “If someone ask about your ages, don’t tell your real ages. just tell your friends age.” I could not understood why i have to say that way. But i did. At that time, my father thought only about my cognitive development. He overlooked about my emotions.

 When i was first grade in my elementary school, among 43 students i was the only one child who was born in 1995. It means i was 7 years and all of others are 8 years. It was shocked to me. When the first time i knew that, i was cried in my mother’s arm. And kept said what should i do. If teachers give easier task than others’ they will notice about my ages and they will tease me. But my mother said to me. “Because you are smarter than others, i decided to send you to school earlier than others. So, don’t worry about that. if they tease you, study hard and show them you are smarter than them.” Next week, i went to school with nervous. Teachers exactly knew my ages. But teachers did not teach me just about number, while my friends in same class study about addition. They treat me equally. They did not think ‘Oh, she was born later than others, so i have to give her easy task’. And at that time, in my mind, there was a “pride” about my learning ability that has same level of my friends’ who actually older than me.

 My mother and teachers understood my emotions. I was worried about others’ judgement about my physical development and learning mistakes. But it was wasting time. My mother and teachers (include kindergarten teacher) exactly understood my cognitive development. So they could treat me by that way. They doesn’t look strangely about my behavior that seems liked had stronger ego-centered thinking way than others. And they didn’t think me as a silly kid when i was behaved as unreasonably stubborn way to just wanted to take two bills of 5,000 won not a one bill of 10,000 won. Also they didn’t jeer at my tendency that kept wanted to play parents role play. They knew what is really important. For me who was 7 years kid that had to play with 8 years friends, it was mostly important to felt a sense of belonging. They didn’t want to me to feel uncomfortable losing belonging because of the judgement of others that i might be had lots of lack because just younger than others.

 Understanding one’s heart means understanding one’s everything. If we want to understand one’s psychology, we have to consider one’s physical & cognitive situations. So i Think teachers have to think concretely about kids’ individual psychology, because preoperational stage is very important time in their life.