# New flexible children policy for theatre

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# Introduction

From our view, most of children are naughty and noisy, they may play tricks to others, or cry in the theatre. but enjoying in the theatre needs quiet. Therefore，many theatres consider that children will disturb other adult audiences so that they have the children policy to restrict children to enter. Image that there is a good play in the theatre, but no one can help you take care of your kid, then you buy 2 tickets for yourself and your child happily. But when you take your kid to the theatre, he is kept out by theatre guards for short in height, or image that your 3-year son is learning piano, he yearns to listen to live symphonies, but he is refused by the theatre guard because of his early age. It is unfair for some children if it takes only height or age as the criterion that whether they are allowed to enter the theatre. That means we should have a new flexible age policy to allow some children to enter the theatre and enjoy the show.

**Body**

Different theatres have different children policies. Most of the theatres have the policy that “Children bellow 120cm are not allowed in the theatre.” Some of theatre also have policy that “Children who looked naughty are not allowed in the theatre”. These policies look not reasonable. We should not decide whether children could enter the theatre by just looking at their appearance, or just use height as the criterion. Some researches indicate that the appearance is the adaptive mechanisms in the social and, as such, lead to shared stereotypes, which means we show different faces if we have different characters sometimes, that is because we are adapting the society. Therefore, we can judge the characters by looking at people’s appearance in some ways, but it is not perfect, because someone like to mask their face or break the mechanisms . So we should not use height, age, appearance as the only criterion, That is unfair for some children.

Why we should let children enter the theater. For parents, many fathers or mothers are busy in taking care of babies. No one help them to care for their children. So those parents who love theaters will be very happy if theaters allow children to enter, because they can take their children together to enjoy the dramas.

Actually, we should encourage children to be exposed on the theater, which is beneficial for them. There is a project in Toronto that school introduced the theater into the class, and teachers will organize the students to go to the theater. They find that most of students can enjoy the plays, and the students start to make some connections between classroom and theater naturally, they know how the knowledge taught in the class comes from by watching theaters. In addition, watching theaters will widen the students’ perspective. When they are asked why Sophie was excluded from the group. Some students answered that “Maybe she is different” or “Maybe she is weird”, however, some students suggested that “That may have nothing to do with what Sophie does, what their actions may be about power ”. The perspective is very important for students.

Taking children into the theater is good for children. but how to solve the problems that children would bother other adult audiences. Shang Hai have had an attempt that they allow children to enter the 11 theaters for cultivating children’s artistic accomplishment. Children are allowed to enter the theatre, but if children disturb others, the guard will remind the parents to take the children to go out for a rest. And some theatres have a special region for children for convenient management. Besides, some plays that are not suitable for children will mark the notice on the tickets in advance. YPT(Young People Theater) is another choice for children, they will rewrite story for children or teenagers, at the same time, they will highlight the education meaning of the story, which would attract children more so that children would be more quiet.

It is difficult to apply the new flexible children policies to the theaters. But children will benefit a lot from the theaters. So why don’t we try our best to allow children enter the theater?

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