

This is where my kids grew up

For years now, I've been wanting to sell our home, the place where my husband and I raised our kids. But to me, this house is more than just a building. In the front room, there's a wall that has hundreds of pencil lines. Every growth stage (21)_____ (mark) in pencils, with each child's name and the date.

Of all the objects and all the memories, it's this one thing in a home that's (22)_____ (hard) to leave behind. Our kids grow in so many ways, but the wall is physical evidence of their progress. Friends I know have visited their previous home only (23)_____ (discover) their wall of heights has been freshly painted over. Over the years, I've talked about how much I would hate leaving that wall behind when I moved, (24)_____ the last marks were made 10 years ago when my kids stopped growing. So one day, while I was at work, my children decided to do (25)_____ about it.



They hired Jacquie Manning, a professional photographer (26)_____ work is about capturing the beautiful things in life. She came to our house while I was at work, and over several hours, (27)_____ (take) photos of the hundreds of drawings and lines, little grey fingerprints, and old marks. Somehow, she managed to photograph (28)_____ we had experienced in all those years. Afterwards, she put all the photos together into one image, (29)_____ (transform) them into a beautiful history of my family.

Three weeks later, my children's wonderful gift made its way to me —(30)_____ life-size photo of the pencil lines and fingerprints that represents entire lifetimes of love and growth.

A. emphasizes	B. principle	C. enormous	D. helping	E. energized	F. active
G. increased	H. absorbing	I. benefits	J. analyzed	K. temperate	

Emphasizing social play in kindergarten improves academics

Emphasizing social play and students helping one another in kindergarten improves academic outcomes, self-control and attention regulation, finds new UBC research. The study, published in the journal *PLoS One*, found this approach to kindergarten curriculum also ____31____ children's joy in learning and teachers' enjoyment of teaching.

"Before children have the ability to sit for long periods ____32____ information, they need to be allowed to be ____33____ and be encouraged to learn by doing," said Dr. Adele Diamond, the study's lead author. "Indeed, people of all ages learn better by doing than by being told."

Through a controlled experiment, Diamond and her colleagues ____34____ the effectiveness of a curriculum called Tools of the Mind (Tools). The curriculum was introduced to willing kindergarten teachers and 351 children with different backgrounds in 18 public schools.

Tools was developed in 1993 by two American researchers. Its basic ____35____ is that social-emotional development and improving self-control is as important as teaching academic skills and content. The Tools ____36____ the role of social play in developing skills such as self-control, selective attention and planning. "Skills like self-control and selective attention are necessary for learning. They are often more strongly associated with *school readiness* (入学准备) than intelligence quotient (IQ)," said Diamond. "This experiment is the first to show ____37____ of a curriculum emphasizing social play."

Teachers reported more ____38____ behavior and greater sense of community in Tools classes. Late in the school year, Tools teachers reported they still felt ____39____ and excited about teaching, while teachers in the control group were exhausted. “I have enjoyed seeing the ____40____ progress my students have made in writing and reading,” said a Tools teacher in Vancouver. “I have also enjoyed seeing the students get so excited about coming to school and learning. They loved all the activities so much that many students didn’t want to miss school, even if they were sick.”

In product design, imagining users’ feelings leads to more original outcomes

Researchers find that in new product design, connecting with users’ heart, rather than their head, can lead to more original and creative outcomes.

Developing original and ____41____ products is critical to a company’s long-term success. Thus, understanding what influences originality can have important and potentially ____42____ consequences for businesses. Ravi Mehta, a professor of business administration, shows that adopting a(n) ____43____ that imagines how the user would feel while using a product leads designers to experience greater *empathy* (同感), which ____44____ creativity and, in turn, outcome originality for new product design.

There are two ways that the product designer can ____45____ the consumer’s product usage. One focuses on objective use of the product—how consumers might use the product, that is, an “objective –imagination” approach. The other focuses on feelings—how the product makes the consumer feel, a “feelings-imagination” approach.

Consumers always want to have new products that solve problems more efficiently and at a less cost. So product designers ____46____ this trap of being very objective in focusing on the use of a product. That’s important, but the ____47____ of usage can only attract consumers in some ways. ____48____, the feelings-imagination approach leads designers to experience greater empathy, which makes them more ____49____ to the consumers’ ideas. This leads to greater outcome originality. Mehta said, “when you imagine consumers and focus on their feelings, that’s powerful and will lead to something much more innovative than only focusing on a product’s usage.” The research shows that a feelings-based approach is ____50____ to the commonly used objective-based approach, the researchers wrote. It not only helps product designers build a better product, but it also helps them create more innovative products.

The implications of the findings extend to everyday consumers, who now play a role in shaping companies’ design. Mehta said, “Marketers are increasingly ____51____ consumers for new product ideas.” ____52____, there was a very successful campaign a few years ago that focused on getting consumers to create a new potato chip flavor.

The experiments demonstrated a ____53____ effect of adopting a feelings-imagination approach. That suggests that these designers may ____54____ imagining users’ feelings. In this way, designers can develop products that could ____55____ to the masses. Companies can easily adopt this process and promote feelings-imagination exercises through their websites or social media.

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|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 41. A. primary | B. innovative | C. natural | D. domestic |
| 42. A. temporary | B. slight | C. indefinite | D. profitable |
| 43. A. policy | B. proposal | C. approach | D. standard |

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 44. A. enhances | B. exhibits | C. illustrates | D. explores |
| 45. A. recommend | B. extend | C. exploit | D. imagine |
| 46. A. fall apart | B. figure out | C. fall into | D. turn into |
| 47. A. originality | B. objectivity | C. creativity | D. flexibility |
| 48. A. In conclusion | B. In addition | C. As a result | D. By contrast |
| 49. A. open | B. harmful | C. resistant | D. equal |
| 50. A. evident | B. superior | C. relevant | D. alert |
| 51. A. joining in | B. applying to | C. turning to | D. taking in |
| 52. A. In reality | B. In other words | C. What's more | D. For example |
| 53. A. dramatic | B. positive | C. negative | D. serious |
| 54. A. depend on | B. benefit from | C. contribute to | D. involve in |
| 55. A. appeal | B. refer | C. adapt | D. commit |

(A)

At first glance Esther Okade seems like a normal 10-year-old. She loves dressing up as Elsa from “Frozen”, playing with Barbie dolls and going to the park or shopping. But what makes the British-Nigerian youngster stand out is the fact that she’s also a university student.

Esther, from Walsall, an industrial town in the UK’s West Midlands region, is one of the country’s youngest college freshmen. The talented 10-year-old enrolled at the Open University in January and is already top of the class, having recently scored 100% in an exam.

“It’s so interesting and super easy,” she laughs. “My mum taught me in a nice way.” She adds: “I want to finish the course in two years. Then I’m going to do my PhD in financial maths when I’m 13. I want to have my own bank by the time I’m 15 because I like numbers and I like people and banking is a great way to help people.”

And in case people think her parents have pushed her into starting university early, Esther disagrees. “I actually wanted to start when I was seven. But my mum didn’t agree.” After three years of begging, Mother Efe finally agreed to explore the idea.

Esther has always jumped ahead of her peers. Her mother noticed her daughter’s gift for figures shortly after she began homeschooling her at the age of three. Initially, Esther’s parents had enrolled her in a private school but after a few short weeks, the usually-energetic youngster refused to go back to that school because the teachers didn’t let her talk in class. In the UK, education is not compulsory until five, so Efe started to do little things at home by teaching basic number skills but Esther was miles ahead. By four, her natural talent for maths had seen the eager student move on to *algebra* (代数学) and *quadratic equations* (二次方程式).

And Esther isn’t the only maths miracle in the family. Her younger brother Isaiah, 6, will soon be sitting his first A-level exam in June.

56. Which of the following makes Esther Okade different from her normal peers?

- A. She is the youngest college student in the UK.
- B. She goes to university at a much earlier age.
- C. She often gets full marks in maths exams.
- D. She loves acting as a university student.

57. From the passage we can learn that _____.

- A. Esther thinks her parents expect too much of her
- B. Esther cannot adapt herself well to college life
- C. Esther asked to go to university even earlier
- D. Esther dislikes being taught at home

58. What might be a main factor that has led to Esther’s being a maths genius?

- A. The gene from her family. B. Her course in the university.
 C. The criticism from her teachers. D. Her mother's homeschooling.
59. Esther can be described as a girl who _____.
 A. is ambitious and has a clear goal B. is creative and loves exploring the unknown
 C. is rebellious but ready to help others D. is energetic but reluctant to challenge herself

(B)

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60. The above website is mainly designed for _____.
 A. children B. teenagers C. teachers D. businessmen
61. It can be inferred that the website is most probably initiated in _____.

A. America B. Britain C. Australia D. Canada

62. Which of the following is true according to the website?

- A. The website is composed of twelve main sections.
- B. Individuals and institutions pay the same price for a subscription.
- C. We can access the website by various means except on Facebook.
- D. Resources can be gained free for about one month after registration.

(C)

Unless you are like Nasty Gal's founder Sophia Amoruso, the passwords you use to access your email and the endless other accounts you need for work aren't filled with intention. With increasing security requirements, it's likely your word/number combinations are becoming even less memorable. But new research suggests it may not be long before you won't need to memorize passwords.

"Brainprint", published in *Neurocomputing*, reveals that the brain's reaction to certain words could be a unique identifying code — like a fingerprint — that could eventually replace passwords.

In a small experiment, the researchers measured the brains' signals of 45 volunteers as they read through a list of 75 acronyms such as FBI and DVD. The word-recognition response differed so much between each participant that a second experiment using a computer program could identify each one with 94% accuracy.

It's not enough to feel totally secure, but promising enough to hint at the future of securing sensitive information.

The advantage of using such a *biometric system* (生物识别系统) is that it can be used for continuous *verification* (验证), New Scientist points out. Passwords or fingerprints only provide a tool for **one-off identification**. Continuous verification could in theory allow someone to interact with many computer systems at the same time or even with a variety of intelligent objects, without having to repeatedly enter passwords for each device.

As Hollywood has illustrated, it's simply a matter of cutting off a finger to steal that person's identity. "Brainprints, on the other hand, are potentially cancellable," said Sarah Laszlo, assistant professor of psychology and linguistics at Binghamton University and co-author of the study, "So, in the unlikely event that attackers were actually able to steal a brainprint from an authorized user, the authorized user could then 'reset' their brainprint."

Until now, brain signals have been a challenge to understand. This experiment leaped over the obstacle by focusing on the brainwaves from the specific area that reads and recognizes words. The signal is therefore clearer and easier to measure.

The problem, so far, is that the brain signal is still not as accurate as scanning someone's fingerprint, and initially requires sticking *diodes* (二极管) on your head in order to get a read. That's ok, according to Zhanpeng Jin, assistant professor at Binghamton University and coauthor of the study, because brainprint isn't going to be mass-produced any time soon. He says the researchers foresee its use at places such as the Pentagon, where the number of authorized users is small, and they don't need to be continuously verified the way you do to access your mobile device or email.

Better keep your memory sharp, at least a little while longer.

63. In paragraph 5, "one-off identification" refers to the identification that ____.

- A. happens as part of a regular series
- B. interacts with intelligent objects

- C. can be verified continuously D. needs repeated verification
64. According to Sarah Laszlo, _____.
 A. fingerprints can be canceled once stolen B. brainprints are theft-proof and resettable
 C. attackers can steal and replace brainprints D. users have the authority to cancel brainprints
65. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 A. brainprints will sharpen users' memory B. brainprints will become easier to be measured
 C. brainprints will receive narrow application D. brainprints will eventually replace fingerprints
66. Which of the following is the best title of the passage?
 A. Brainprints: A New Way to Replace Passwords
 B. Brainprints: A Unique Device to Identify Codes
 C. Brainprints: A Quicker Way to Access Your Email
 D. Brainprints: A Securer Device to Identify Brain Signals

- A. Finally, it has taken a giant leap forward.
 B. All of the factors pushing online education toward the mainstream of higher education are now crashing together.
 C. Over the past few years, he has been teaching himself programming.
 D. In other words, Coursera's approach is a long way from a simple online video lecture.
 E. Yet the most exciting promise of their company and the like is the role they might play in improving education for the poor around the world.
 F. Ng's course in machine learning attracted 104,000 enrollees around the world.

A School That Can Educate Us All

Christos Porios, 16, lives in a small Greek city. "My mother's a teacher and my father's a mechanic," he explains, adding that neither is knowledgeable about computers — especially compared with him. 67

Porios was taking a free class in machine learning offered by Andrew Ng, a professor at Stanford University, over an online platform Ng developed with his colleagues. Drawing on what he learned, Porios was able to participate in the International Space Apps Challenge, a virtual *hackathon* (编程马拉松) using data from NASA and other government agencies.

If one teenager in one small city can become a genius hacker through an online course, does it mean the world has changed? We have been hearing about the potential of online education for decades.

68 A number of online education platforms have appeared, featuring professors from top universities offering free courses.

69 Ng was amazed. "It would take me 250 years to teach this many people at Stanford," he says. And so, just one month into the course, Ng and his Stanford colleague, Daphne Koller, decided to leave their *faculty posts* (教职) and dive into online teaching full-time. In April, they launched their company, Coursera, with a \$16 million round of venture funding. So far, it has managed to team up with 35 colleges in nine countries.

To Ng and Koller, Coursera's mission is simple and yet grand. That is to teach millions of people around the world for free, while also transforming higher education.

According to Ng, the world's top 20 universities enroll only about 200,000 students. There are million more who could participate in classwork at the higher level, but most of them are far from

any of the leading universities. 70

Koller says Coursera's total registration has hit 15 million. Porios, the young Greek, is only one of those registrants. His hope is to study in Germany or England someday. He is even toying with the idea of taking classes at MIT or Stanford — but this time in person.

72. 有些地方因污染而出现了许多奇怪的疾病。(arise)

73. 全球气候变暖使得一些稀有动物濒临灭绝。(leave)

74. 我养成了习惯，趁记忆犹新，就把难忘的经历写下来。(while)

75. 该选手的机智及开阔的知识面使评委们大为惊异，他们一致同意他为冠军获得者。
(So...)