

# I only want perfection

**T**he pillars of Chinese parenting (according to Amy Chua): Chinese parents can do things that would seem unimaginable – even legally actionable – to Westerners.

As a parent, one of the worst things you can do for your child's self-esteem is to let them give up.

The Chinese mother believes that:

1. Schoolwork always comes first.
2. An A-minus is a bad grade.
3. Your children must be two years ahead of their classmates in maths.
4. You must never compliment your children in public.
5. If your child ever disagrees with

a teacher or coach, you must always take the side of the teacher or coach.

6. The only activities your children should be permitted to do are those in which they can eventually win a medal.

7. That medal must be gold.

Here are three things I actually said to (my daughter) at the piano as I supervised her practising:

1. Oh my God, you're just getting worse and worse.
2. I'm going to count to three, then I want musicality!
3. If the next time's not perfect, I'm going to take all your stuffed animals and burn them.