

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 11-3: Everybody Won

Last night was the last game for my eight-year-old son's soccer (足球) team. It was the final quarter of the game. The score was two to one, my son's team in the lead. Parents encircled (包围) the field, offering encouragement (鼓励). With less than ten seconds remaining, the ball rolled in front of my son's teammate Mike Smith. With shout of "Kick it" echoing (回音) across the field, Mike reared back (退後) and gave it everything he had. All round me the crowd erupted (爆发). "Mike had scored! (得分)"

Then there was silence (安静). Mike had scored all right, but in the wrong goal (球门), ending the game in a tie (平手). For a moment there was a total hush (寂静). You see, Mike has Down's Syndrome (蒙古症) and for him there is no such thing as a wrong goal. All goals (得分) were celebrated (庆祝) by a joyous hug (拥抱) from Mike. He had even been known to hug the opposing (对方) players when they scored. The silence was finally broken when Mike, his face filled with joy, grabbed (抓住) my son, hugged him and yelled, "I scored! I scored! Everybody won! Everybody won!" For a moment I held my breath (呼吸), not sure how my son would react. I need not have worried. I watched, through tears, as my son threw up his hand in the classic high-five salute (举手击掌) and started chanting (反复喊), "Way to go Mike! Way to go Mike!" Within moments both teams surrounded Mike, joining in the chant and congratulating him on his goal.

Down's Syndrome (DS, 先天性愚症):

DS is a birth and genetic (先天遗传) disorder (混乱), caused by the presence of an extra chromosome (染色体) in which the effected person has mild to moderate mental retardation (智力迟钝), short stature (矮小), and a flattened facial profile (扁平脸型). The name is after a British physician – John Langda Down (1828-1896). All normal people have 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46, but a person with DS has an extra chromosome (the 47th). The extra genetic material causes problems with the way his body develops. Chromosomes, are thread-like structures within each cell (细胞) and are made up of genes . (基因) From statistics about one out of 800 babies has DS.

2. Discussion:

1. Why was the father concerned about the son's reaction to Mike's scoring the wrong goal?
2. What was the significance of the son's chanting "way to go, Mike!"
3. Why is this article titled "Everybody won"?

3. Remember Seven phrases a week:

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| 442. This car is in good condition. | 这车状况很好。 |
| 443. This work itself is very easy. | 这件工作本身很容易。 |
| 444. Time will tell the truth. | 时间见真理。 |
| 445. We look forward to your visit. | 期待您的光临。 |
| 446. What do you think of this one? | 您觉得这个怎么样子 |
| 447. What's the weather like to day? | 今天天气怎么样? |
| 448. A red tie will match that suit. | 红领带会配那件衣服。 |