



Preface

Introduction

Chinese Paradise is a series of textbooks for an elective course of elementary Chinese for children in English-speaking countries. There are 18 volumes altogether: 6 volumes of Student's Book, 6 volumes of Workbook, 3 volumes of Cards of Words and Expressions, 3 volumes of Teacher's Book both in Chinese and in English.

I. Teaching objectives

Students will:

1. be able to understand and speak some simple Chinese sentences;
2. be able to sing some Chinese children's songs and recite children's rhymes and simple poems;
3. acquire some basic knowledge of Chinese characters, such as the basic strokes and stroke order, and be able to write some simple Chinese characters;
4. gain a preliminary understanding of some of the Chinese culture.

II. Principles of compiling

1. Learner-oriented with scientific arrangement of the contents

Language teaching is integrated with presentation of cultural information, games and hands-on activities in view of some special characteristics of children in English-speaking countries, such as being lively, enjoying moving around in class, and being interested in making handicrafts and playing games. In order for students to learn Chinese and understand China through perceptual activities, language teaching is treated as the foundation while cultural information, games and hands-on activities as the supplements. Teaching resources such as Teacher's Book, CDs and CD-ROMs are accompanied with the textbooks catering to the need for different teaching means.



Teaching of the language points and training of the language skills are arranged in accordance with the rules of Chinese acquisition as a second language. The text, vocabulary and grammar are taught in a scientific, rational and progressive way. Teaching of Chinese characters, words and expressions and sentences are conducted through lively and interesting activities. In brief, students learn Chinese in an enjoyable and relaxing atmosphere, which well represents the compiling principles of this series—teaching by pleasurable means and learning in entertainment.

2. Presenting knowledge of interest to children

Taking the arrangement of the topics for situational dialogues as an example, the selection of the topics is based on their practical application in communication and scientific methods of language teaching, as well as some special characteristics of children, such as liveliness and curiosity. Some common communicative topics selected include greeting, expression of thanks, inquiry and invitation etc., and other topics favored by children, such as travel, entertainment, sports and pets etc.

In view of the liveliness of children, entertaining and hands-on activities are provided in the Student's Book and Workbook, for example, making handicrafts and sticking stick-on pictures etc. Thus, the integration of language teaching, cultural introduction and game playing has been achieved.