



让孩子们一点一点感受气流的大小

Liu Lingli puts a girl's hand before her mouth so that the student can feel how one breathes when uttering a certain word.

Emerging from the world of silence: a teacher's passion for deaf education



Liu often puts students' fingers into her mouth to help them feel the correct pronunciation positions.

Wang Yong

As a part-time college lecturer, I know how hard it is to teach well, given my limited time and experience. Over the past few years, I've had to double my effort in reading and writing to meet students' increasing expectations for better thinking skills.

But my challenge is nothing compared with that endured by a 51-year-old teacher, who has devoted herself to deaf education for more than 30 years.

Since 1991, Liu Lingli, a teacher at a special education school in Hengyang City, Hunan Province, has taught only about 100 students. She

has made far more efforts than me, though I've taught more than 100 students in just five years. On most working days, sometimes even in her spare time, she has to toil round the clock, not just as a teacher, but as a caregiver, a mother-like figure indeed.

In 1991, Liu graduated from a special education college in Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province, at the age of 18, and then returned to her hometown as an instructor for deaf children.

She already began working like a mother at such a young age. Once, a little girl student, suffering from a slower mental development as well as hearing loss, went to the toilet and was later found to

have smeared herself with the dirty stuff. Without hesitation, Liu darted toward where the girl was found, enfolded her in her arms and helped clean her body.

Similar stories abound. In the past 30 years or so, Liu have trudged through many harrowing paths to offer at-home lessons to some students who could not make it to the school. She accompanied a boy student to hospital for an emergency treatment at night. She donated her academic rewards to the school to help poor students with their studies. At one point, she even decided to postpone her plan to have a child so that she could focus on teaching.