

## Perseverance

When I was small, I was very afraid of water and didn't even dare to touch it. My parents often encouraged me to learn swimming but I always declined. But everything changed two years ago.

That day, my family went to the beach. I saw some children playing in the water. I wanted to join in but I was too scared to do so. Therefore I decided to learn swimming.

My swimming tutor was kind and patient. He taught me how to swim and taught me swimming skills. I practised every day. Even though I failed sometimes, my tutor always cheered me up. One and a half years later, I succeeded. I finally learnt how to swim!

Now I swim every week at the beach. I couldn't believe that two years ago I couldn't swim! I believe that if you persevere through any challenges, you will finally succeed.

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A long time ago, I had a goal of being able to shoot a basketball. While I was trying so hard to achieve this goal, some bullies came and snatched my ball out of my hands and said, 'How can you shoot a basketball into the net when you're so short!'

When I heard that, I was so discouraged and down. I went back home and sat inside with my basketball in my hand. Suddenly, my mum came and said, 'I've never seen your favourite basketball player, Stephen Curry, give up so easily before!' After she said that, I was inspired so I went back to the basketball court and started to practise shooting the basketball. Day after day, I practised but I didn't have much improvement. I wanted to give up but I kept thinking of what Mum said so I kept trying.

Until one day, I shot from the baseline, the ball rolled and bounced around the rim. I thought the ball would drop off the rim, but to my surprise, the ball dropped through the hoop! I was so excited because at last I was able to shoot the basketball into the net! I ran back home and told my mum and dad what had happened. They were very happy and proud of me because I didn't give up and had the resolve to achieve a goal. Then they took me out for ice-cream!

I learnt that we should never give up and should strive to achieve our goals!