

無理取鬧

wu2 li3 qu3 nao4

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is thoroughly enjoying his role as a new father. He has been posting heart-warming pictures of his wife and newborn daughter Max on the internet.

No activity is too small for sharing, and that includes Zuckerberg changing a nappy (換片) and dressing Max up as a *Star Wars* Jedi. His postings are well-liked. He recently uploaded pictures of him taking Max for her first shots, and received three million “likes.”

But the posting also drew flak from “anti-vaxxers” (反防疫注射份子) who said he should not be promoting the inoculation of (防疫注射) children, a practice they claimed may cause diseases or developmental disorders, such as autism (自閉症).

Most people would consider the “anti-vaxxers” “無理取鬧” (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4). “無” (wu2) means “without,” “理” (li3) is “reason.” “無理” (wu2 li3) means “unreasonable,” “without

Idiom by Lon Yan

reason.” “取” (qu3) is “to take,” “to get,” and “鬧” (nao4) is “disturbance,” “a racket.” Literally, “無理取鬧” (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4) is “to make trouble without reason,” “to be deliberately provocative,” “to make a racket unreasonably.”

When someone throws a temper or makes a scene unreasonably, you can express your dismay by saying: “This is 無理取鬧 (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4)!”

“無理取鬧” (wu2 li3 qu3 nao4) is definitely not an effective way to get what you want. In fact, it usually has the opposite effect. Such behavior must be discouraged from the start, or you will get much more of it.

Terms containing the character “鬧” (nao4) include:

鬧事 (nao4 shi4) – to create trouble or disturbance

熱鬧 (re4 nao4) – lively; bustling

鬧鐘 (nao4 zhong1) – an alarm clock

鬧翻 (nao4 fan1) – to fall out with someone