

煮汤的三个误区：小松鼠全踩过

小松鼠学煮汤，把能犯的错误犯了个遍。松鼠奶奶一样一样给它纠正，它干脆把错误记成了三张卡片，贴在厨房的墙上。

第一张卡片：盐放得越多越好吃。小松鼠第一次煮汤，抓了大把盐下锅，咸得没法喝。它原以为奶奶的菜香是因为盐多，奶奶笑着说，盐是提味的，放多了反而压住食材本来的甜，南瓜自己就是甜的，盐只要一点点。那天它请教奶奶，把调盐的办法改成了小勺加、勺尖尝。

第二张卡片：下了料就不用管了。第二次煮汤，小松鼠把南瓜倒进锅就去搭积木，回来时锅里的水快烧干了，南瓜也糊了底。奶奶让它重新煮，这回要人守着锅：看火苗、听水声，水咕嘟声变小就转小火。它这才知道，煮汤的时候人不能走开。

第三张卡片：失败一次就是不会煮。糊底的汤倒掉那天，小松鼠赌气说再也不煮了。奶奶反问它：第一双筷子，你练了多少天才学会夹松果？它想了想，夹松果也不是天生就会的。失败只是还没学会，不是学不会。

第三次煮汤，小松鼠先把三张卡片读了一遍，再请教奶奶火候该多大，然后一点点加盐，加一次尝一次，全程守在锅边。汤端上桌，奶奶尝了一口，眼睛弯成了月牙。小松鼠在卡片下面添了一行字：做事要用心，不怕失败。踩过的误区，后来都成了它的经验。

Three Mistakes in Making Soup: Little Squirrel Stepped in Every One

Learning to make soup, Little Squirrel made every mistake there was to make. Grandma Squirrel corrected them one by one, and Little Squirrel turned the mistakes into three cards and pasted them on the kitchen wall.

Card one: more salt means better taste. In its first pot of soup, Little Squirrel threw in a big handful of salt, and the soup was undrinkable. It had assumed Grandma's dishes were delicious because of the salt. Grandma laughed and said salt lifts flavor; too much of it buries the natural sweetness of the food—pumpkin is sweet by itself and only needs a little salt. That day it asked Grandma for a better way to season, and switched to adding salt with a small spoon and tasting with the tip of the spoon.

Card two: once the ingredients are in, you can walk away. On the second attempt, Little Squirrel dumped the pumpkin into the pot and went off to build blocks. When it came back, the water was almost boiled dry and the pumpkin had stuck to the bottom of the pot. Grandma made it start over, and this time a person had to stay by the pot: watch the flame, listen to the water, and turn the heat down when the bubbling sound softened. Only then did it learn that you can't leave while soup cooks.

Card three: failing once means you can't cook. The day the burnt soup went down the drain, Little Squirrel stamped its foot and said it would never cook again. Grandma asked back: how many days did you practice before your chopsticks could pick up a pine cone? It thought about that. Even picking up pine cones wasn't learned in one try. Failure only means not learned yet, not impossible to learn.

On the third attempt, Little Squirrel read the three cards first, then asked Grandma how big the flame should be, added salt little by little, tasted after each pinch, and stayed by the pot the whole time. When the soup reached the table, Grandma took a sip, and her eyes curved into crescents. Under the cards, Little Squirrel added one line: do things with care, and don't fear failure. Every mistake it had stepped in became part of its experience.