

Reading 20 points

1 Read the text and tick (✓) the sentences T (true) or F (false). Then copy the sentences that helped you decide. (10 points)

Everyone knows that friendship is not an easy thing. Friends often disappoint one another. They also have arguments and hurt each other's feelings. Because children often get very upset when they fall out with a friend, teachers from a small number of schools in the south of England have decided that it is better if children don't develop close relationships. In these schools, teachers try to persuade children that it is not a good idea to have a best friend. Instead, they tell them to play in big groups.

However, many experts believe that parents and teachers mustn't prevent children from having close relationships. They say that friendships are an important part of life and that it's natural for children to want to have a best friend. In their opinion, it is wrong for adults to try to stop their children from having this type of relationship, even if it means that they may get hurt. "We make and lose friends throughout our lives," they say.

In addition, they believe that children need to make and lose friends so that they will learn how to cooperate with others. Close friendships allow children to develop social skills and to understand their own needs. When they have close relationships with other people, children learn how to accept others and how to compromise.

Children also have to develop close friendships so that they will know how to do this in the future. Unless they learn how to develop strong relationships, they will probably have very lonely adult lives.

Finally, it's important for children to experience unpleasant situations. If adults try to stop them from having these experiences, children will not know how to overcome obstacles in the future. Instead of trying to prevent these situations, parents and teachers should help children to find solutions to them.

	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>
1. Many schools in England are trying to stop children from having close friends.
2. Most children would like to have a close friend.
3. Experts believe that parents should stop their children from getting hurt.
4. Friendships teach children about themselves.
5. Children can learn from difficult situations.

2 Answer the questions. (10 points)

1. Why do some teachers believe that it is better for children to play in big groups?
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2. Why is the south of England mentioned in the text?
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3. How do people learn to be part of a group?
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4. What may happen to children if they do not learn how to have strong relationships?
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5. How can parents help their children to overcome obstacles?
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