

PROTECTIVE PARENTS



Lesson preparation

1. Read the article. Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1. We used to worry about our children more than we do now
2. Most British parents let their children walk to school.
3. Julie Benz thinks parents worry too much about their children.
4. Life is more dangerous for children now than it used to be.
5. Children don't spend as much time with other children as they used to.

The Parent trap

As every parent knows, if you have children, you worry about them all the time. However, it seems that these days we're worrying about our kids a lot more than we used to. Are we trying to protect our children too much and will this cause problems for them in later life?

"In the past, kids in the UK used to walk to school every day, but these days parents don't let their children go out on their own in case something bad happens to them," said Dr Andy Hallett, a childcare expert. "If children stay indoors all the time, they become unfit. This means they often have health problems in later life."

The dangers of letting your kids go out by themselves are smaller than you might think. "The media makes parents worry about children's safety," says Julie Benz, a child psychologist. "But children are safer now than they have ever been. If parents want their kids to grow up healthy, they shouldn't protect them so much. Children need to make decisions themselves."

Over 27% of British children are now overweight, partly because they spend their free time playing computer games and watching TV. "I can understand why parents are concerned," says Julie Benz. "But if kids never go outside, they can't learn to look after themselves in the real world." Overall, therefore, the message is clear. If you want happy and healthy kids, give them back their freedom.

2. Write the reflexive pronouns. And fill in the gaps with the suitable reflexive pronouns from the table.

Pronouns	Reflexive pronouns
I	myself
You	yourself, _____
We	_____
They	_____
He	_____
She	_____
It	_____

1. I made my daughter's jumper _____.
2. My son likes playing by _____.
3. We want to educate our children _____.
4. Deborah looks after three children by _____.
5. I usually cut the kids hair _____.
6. The party was great. All the kids enjoyed _____.
7. I often go for a walk by _____.