

Complete the text about childhood amnesia with these words.

VERBS: BLOT OUT EVOKE RECALL REMIND REMINISCE SUPPRESS

NOUNS: MIND NOSTALGIA RECOLLECTIONS

ADJECTIVES: EVOCATIVE LASTING UNFORGETTABLE

THE FIRST two or three years of your life are full of new and, you would think, ¹ _____ experiences. But the reality is that most adults can ² _____ almost nothing from those very early years, their earliest ³ _____ being, on average, from the age of about three and a half. This phenomenon is often referred to as 'childhood amnesia'. Interestingly, young children are often able to bring to ⁴ _____ certain events from their first two years of life but, for reasons which are not fully understood, they generally lose this ability as they get older. (The artist Salvador Dali claimed he could recollect being in the womb, but there is no way to prove or disprove this!) Do those earliest memories disappear or does the mind ⁵ _____ them for some reason? Nobody is sure.

As well as this tendency to lose or ⁶ _____ memories from the first three years, most people have far fewer memories up to the age of eight than for other periods in their lives and they are often quite sketchy. Sometimes a picture or a piece of music can ⁷ _____ you of something or someone from years ago, and smells can be particularly ⁸ _____. It is also possible for a sight, smell or sound to ⁹ _____ a feeling – for example, ¹⁰ _____ – rather than a specific memory. We still do not know exactly how the human mind stores information, but we do know that people who frequently ¹¹ _____ about childhood experiences are more likely to create ¹² _____ memories.

