

Topic: You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Today, parents spend little free time with their children. Why is this the case? Who are more affected: parents or children?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.

VOCABULARY

Hectic schedule

To network with somebody

To take care of the elderly parents

To have differences in viewpoints

To be condescending towards somebody

To ban someone from doing something

To wear revealing clothes

To lack the patience to do something

Negligence

Exercise 1: Fill in the gaps with the given words above

1. Harry has such a that he barely has time for his daughter.
2. Parental can really hurt children feelings. Therefore, parents should spend more time with their children.
3. With that many differences in they will never be able to come up with a solution that works for both.
4. She was condemned for wearing to school.

5. She often findsin music whenever she's sad.

6. She wants to make him a scarf but she lacks theto sit in a place to knit for hours.

Exercise 2: Fill in the suitable prepositions

1. To networksomebody
2. To take care the elderly parents
3. To ban someone doing something
4. To look up somebody
5. To become distrustful somebody
6. To be worthy something

SAMPLE 1:

Nowadays, parents' time for their children is limited. Alterations to **both parents and children's routines are responsible for this trend**, and **in my opinion, children will be heavily affected compared to adults**.

The fact that parents are now spending less leisure time with their children **is attributed to the following reasons**. **To begin with**, parents sometimes work overtime to deal with their workload, or any unforeseen problems that may come up. Sometimes they may **be too worn out** when they get home that they lack the energy to deal with their children's high energy levels or their needs. **Furthermore**, due to higher expectations, many parents have their children enrolled in extra classes. This means that the kids' schedule may be filled even on the weekends, which limits the time they interact with their parents.

Personally, this development will have **negative impacts on children's mental well-being and social life**. **First**, when children **are compelled to** spend most of their time studying, they can be **under immense pressure** from parents or from academic results. Over time, children can even develop mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. In fact, there have been many reports of children contemplating self-harm or suicide because they are unable to cope with stress. **Second**, the lack of guidance from parents often leave children's social skills under-developed. This makes it harder for them to navigate through social situations or tackle problems by themselves. In some cases, they can **be vulnerable to** negative influences from society such as violence and vandalism.

To conclude, the main reasons why parents do not spend much of their free time with their children are demands from work and extracurricular activities. This trend is likely to affect children more in terms of their mental health and social skills.

WRITING TASK 2

(295 words)

Nowadays, it is reported that parents are not spending enough time with their children. There are multiple reasons for this, and out of the two parties, the issue tends to affect children more than parents.

The first reason why parents neglect their children is their **hectic schedules**. Many parents currently work more than one job, and they also have to socialize and network with friends and colleagues. Some even have to take care of their elderly parents. Children are also busy studying, hanging out with friends, or dating. Another reason could be that both parties **have differences in viewpoints**. Parents can be condescending towards their children, resulting in banning them from doing things they are interested in, such as getting tattoos, dyeing hair, or wearing **revealing clothes**. On the other hand, children also lack the patience to communicate with their parents respectfully. As a result, children and parents actively avoid spending time with one another.

Although this **negligence** affects both parents and children, children are still getting the more negative end. Children naturally look up to and copy their parents. As a result, when parents do not spend enough time with their children, children can lack communication and other soft skills, become more distrustful, or treat their future children in the same way. Moreover, children, especially teens, are more **emotionally sensitive** than parents. This negligence can be detrimental to their mental state. For example, this lack of care can easily imprint in their minds that their parents do not love them, they are worthy of being isolated, and that they cannot **find solace** in the home. Many suicide cases have resulted from parents not spending time with their children.

In conclusion, it is understandable why parents do not spend enough time with their children. However, parents need to work on this more because this negligence affects children more negatively and seriously than it does parents.

SAMPLE 3

It is increasingly more popular for parents to spend more time at work; thus, less time is spent on **nurturing** their children. This essay will explore some possible factors behind this trend and explain why children suffer more from **the lack of parenting**.

Firstly, two of the primary reasons why parents nowadays hardly spend time with their children are their tight schedule and **technology overdependence**. With regard to the former, considering that the cost of living in major cities is now soaring, it is no wonder that both parents have to spend the majority of their time at work to be able to **afford a decent standard of living** for their children. As for the latter, most parents prefer staring at their devices in their downtime to **having a real conversation** with their children. As a result, **this screen addiction** can widen the generation gap in families, thus **causing a communication barrier** in the family.

When parents tend to spend less time with their offspring, it is their children who suffer the most. **Without the presence of** parents during their important moments, such as birthdays or special events at school, children are more likely to feel lonely, neglected, and depressed. To make matters worse, this **poor parent-child relation** could lead to a higher probability of delinquency. Conversely, if parents make efforts to spend more quality time with their children and **provide guidance, encouragement, and appropriate discipline**, this would strengthen the family bond, thus leading to a healthier, happier family.

In conclusion, hectic schedule and technology addiction are two of the main reasons why parents invest less time in their children, and this would adversely affect the lives of young children.

(283 words)

