

# Parenting

## Language focus

- Parenting adjectives and verbs
- Gerunds as subjects
- Causes and consequences

### 1 Discussion

- When you were a child, were your parents lenient or strict?
- As a child, what naughty things did you get away with?
- What is a good age for young people to leave home?
- Are children more entitled now than they were in previous generations?
- How can parents teach their children to become independent?

#### Useful language

- *make/let someone do something*
- *tell lies / tell the truth*
- *fly the nest*
- *fend for oneself*



### 2 Spoilt?

What do you think makes children spoilt?

Do the following things spoil them?

- Getting pocket money
- Having a TV in their room
- Having a mobile phone
- Being allowed to cry when they don't get their own way
- Being allowed to eat meals in their room

#### Useful language

- *Giving a child pocket money is fine, just as long as ...*
- *Allowing a child to have their own TV needn't become a problem, when and where ...*
- *Letting a child have a mobile phone could lead to ...*



### 3 Punishment

Put the following punishments in order of severity.

- A smack with the hand
- A smack with a slipper
- A telling-off
- Being sent to bed early
- Being grounded for a week
- Not being given pocket money
- Not being allowed to watch TV
- Being made to do chores around the house
- Having to run errands



### 4 What makes for good parenting?

- Occasionally being hard to instil discipline
- Occasionally being indulgent
- Giving in to demands
- Letting children make mistakes in order to learn from them
- Laying down the law to teach moral values.
- Making children do tasks to learn the value of hard work.

#### Useful language

- *Being too soft on children can make them ...*
- *Letting children make mistakes needn't be a bad thing, as long as ...*
- *Laying down the law can backfire, as ...*



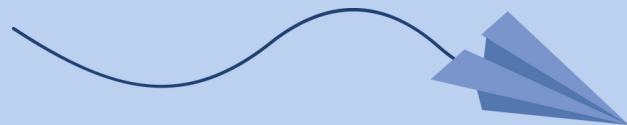
## 5 The big picture

Discuss these questions in more detail.

- What did children used to get away with more than they do now?
- Are parents too lenient and indulgent nowadays?
- How can parents help children appreciate the value of hard work?
- How can you avoid making children feel entitled?
- Is it good to give an adolescent advice about sex before they go out on a date?
- Do some children wear punishment as a badge of honour?

## 6 Debate

At what age should children be allowed mobile phones or tablets?



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Continguts de James Haden i Serveis Lingüístics

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Universitat de Barcelona. Serveis Lingüístics