

Parents can care too much

adapted from an article by Jennifer Selway

- 1 KERRY and Tim Meek are lovely people. The couple – both teachers – take their duties as parents to Amy, 10, and Ella, 8, very seriously. Commendably they want them to grow up as confident, outgoing young women. They can't bear the thought of their girls stuck in front of a twerking video or playing computer games.



- 2 To prevent this, the family drew up a list of 100 outdoor challenges. Top of the list: 'walk on a rope between two trees'. Other must-dos include 'explore rock pools', 'make a rope swing', 'climb and abseil'. All good fun especially as little girls of that age are the best of companions. But much as I applaud Ma and Pa Meek I suspect that if, as a child, I'd been presented with this exhausting, unending list of time-consuming activities I would have begged to be adopted – by less attentive parents. I wouldn't have wanted to be dragooned into 'doing a tag team cycle trial' (44 on the list) because I might have wanted to do something else... like talk rubbish to my friends.
- 3 The sad thing about modern childhood is that left to their own devices, children do indeed tend to boot up some piece of expensive electronic equipment in a darkened room. Previous generations – because there was nothing much to do at home – simply went outside and reappeared at tea-time for refuelling. Children didn't need an approved list of things to do, they had hideaways to build, bikes to ride, sticks to wave around pointlessly. And there were also plenty of unsparty kids like me who preferred to disappear into their private world with a book. The thought of having to 'enter a race' (56 on the list) would have filled me with horror.
- 4 Previous generations didn't feel so obligated to play with their children and keep them entertained all the time, and children had no wish to have their parents butting in on their games. Mothers were generally too busy cooking and Hoovering (poor things) though your father was good for some fun at the weekend which usually involved being driven somewhere in the car and being allowed to change the gears up and down (my favourite daddy-daughter activity). Parents knew their place. Nobody had mobile phones so mum wasn't forever texting you to ask where you were. Occasional boredom was expected to be as much a part of your childhood as it had been theirs – the challenge was to find ways of combatting it that didn't get you into trouble.

5 The family did come together of course – for meals round a table and for occasional outings. But there was no such thing as the verb ‘to parent’. Parents had nothing to prove, they were simply the grownups (with their own lives and interests) who kept you safe until you fled the nest. Likewise, parents were not on your case the whole time. Benign neglect it’s called. The Meeks are a wonderful couple. I hope 33

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Tekst 10

- 1p 29 “Parents can care too much” (titel)
→ In welke zin maakt de schrijfster van dit artikel **voor het eerst** duidelijk dat ze twijfels heeft over de aanpak van de ouders?
Citeer (= schrijf over uit de tekst) de eerste twee woorden van deze zin.
- 1p 30 “a list of 100 outdoor challenges” (paragraph 2)
What is the main aim of this list, according to the text?
A to develop the children’s interest in wildlife and science
B to keep the children away from unsuitable entertainment
C to spend more quality time as a family together
D to strengthen the bond between the sisters
- 1p 31 Which conclusion does paragraph 3 lead up to?
A Children benefit from having to engage in physical exercises.
B Children have lost the capacity to play with others nowadays.
C Gaming and videos have turned children into idle creatures.
D Grown-ups should not control children’s activities all the time.
- 1p 32 Welk onderdeel van opgroeien lijkt verdwenen te zijn volgens alinea 4?
A bordspelletjes doen
B de kans om je te vervelen
C helpen in het huishouden
D kattenkwaad uithalen
- 1p 33 Kies bij 33 in alinea 5 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A others will follow their example.
B they will know when to let go.
C they will stick to their list.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.