

# **Childhood**

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## **Activity 1**

*Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.*

1. Write a list of words which you associate with the word 'childhood'. For example: parents, toys, school... Compare your list with your partner.
2. What is your earliest memory? How old were you at the time?
3. Describe your happiest memories of childhood to your partner.
4. Were you naughty as a child? What's the naughtiest thing you did?
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being an only child?
6. How was your childhood different from that of your parents and grandparents?
7. Do you think that childhood is shorter these days than it was in the past? Do children grow up too fast nowadays? Do you think they become mature at a younger age than in the past? If so, what do you think are the implications of this - what are the advantages and disadvantages?
8. In the book by J.M. Barrie, the character Peter Pan never grew up. Do you think there is a part in all of us which never grows up or doesn't want to grow up? What are the advantages and disadvantages being 'young at heart'?

## **Activity 2**

*Match the following proverbs with the corresponding explanations below. Then discuss with your partner how much you agree with them.*

1. *Children should be seen and not heard.*
  2. *Spare the rod and spoil the child.*
  3. *The child is the father of the man.*
- a) If you don't punish children by caning them (or smacking them) they will not learn how to behave properly.
  - b) We can use the character of a child to predict what sort of personality they will have when they become adult.
  - c) When children are with their parents and other older relatives and family friends etc, they should be silent.

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## **Activity 3**

*Do you think that children grow up too quickly nowadays? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.*

### **Task 1**

1. *Did most people agree or disagree that children grow up too quickly nowadays?*
2. *What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?*

### **Task 2**

1. *Read the post your teacher has put on the board at: <http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.*
2. *Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.*

### **Task 3**

1. *Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.*
2. *Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.*

### **N.B. Netiquette!**

**PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE  
TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY  
THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!**

## **Activity 4**

*Have you ever seen the film 'Hook', starring Robin Williams? This film is based on the book 'Peter Pan' by J.M. Barrie. It is about a boy who didn't grow up. Why not try to see it (or read the book) in the original language?*

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