



Title: Being a parent/carer: If I was a parent

Level: THIRD

Code: 3.15.3

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Experiences and outcomes	Benchmarks
<p>I can explain the importance and the enduring and complex responsibility of being a parent/carer, and the impact on life choices and options. HWB 3-51a</p> <p>I can explain the support and care necessary to ensure a child is nurtured through the different stages of childhood. HWB 3-51b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains the short and long-term impact of parenthood, for example, joy, commitment, financial implications, anxiety, physical demands. • Explains the meaning and importance of nurture in a child’s development. • Identifies local support available for parents and carers.

About this activity

In this activity young people consider the kind of parent/carer they want to be.

Resources to support this activity

- Slides
- Props for activities

Activity

1. Start with a reminder of the work on being a parent and carer so far – about what babies, children and young people need as they grow (child development) and also about how to give babies the best start in life. Explain that this session is about what kind of parent/career they want to be and also about acknowledging some of the things that parents and carers worry about.
2. **Being a parent.** Share the slide and the statements on cards. Ask the young people to work in pairs or 3s and to take each statement and decide if they Agree/Disagree/Don’t know. They should be prepared to explain why in feedback to the whole class/group.

Being a parent. Do you **agree, disagree** or **‘don’t know’** when it comes to these statements:

1. Being a parent is easy.
2. Having a baby makes a relationship stronger.
3. Mothers are more important to young babies than fathers.
4. Parents are a child’s most important role model.
5. Parenting comes naturally to everyone.
6. Being a parent would be fun.
7. It would be tough being a teenage parent.

3. **If I was a parent.** Ask the young people to continue to work in their small groups of 3. Give them the prompt statement **If I was a parent I would want to...** and the 11 statements on cards. Explain that all of these things a parent/carer can do are important, ask them to discuss each and as a group select 5 attributes of a parent they would say are those *they want to aspire to most*. Explain that you will ask small groups to feedback what they have chosen and why. Look for similarities and differences, while all are important, acknowledge why different choices have been made. In conversation explore where groups had disagreements or debate.

If I was a parent I would want to:

1. Make sure my child helps out doing chores at home.
 2. Teach my child how to get on with other people.
 3. Expect and encourage my child to do their best and help them to do their best.
 4. Get on with my child's other parent or carers – avoid arguments at home.
 5. Play and read together.
 6. Make sure my child knows I love them.
 7. Be a good role model.
 8. Be patient and not get stressed.
 9. Spend time with my child.
 10. Trust my child.
 11. Have clear rules.
4. **What would you worry about if you were a parent?** Either pose the question for a whole class discussion or have young people consider this as a small group and feedback views. After some time, share the slide about parents top 10 worries – explore similarities and differences. (Research conducted by the company that make Rescue Remedy)

Research found that the top 10 worries parents have are:

1. Being able to afford what their child needs
 2. Dealing with a lack of sleep
 3. Having enough patience
 4. Encouraging the child to eat their meals
 5. Dealing with an ill child
 6. Keeping on top of household chores
 7. Encouraging children to do their homework
 8. Encouraging children to work hard at school
 9. Coping with a child having a tantrum
 10. Getting children up in the morning
5. **Online worries: The Webwise 2017 Parent Survey.** Acknowledge that a worry for parents of older children is them being online. Do their parents worry about them being online? Share the Webwise 2017 infographic. What do young people think of these findings? Do they think that parents/carers are right to worry about these things? Are their strategies good enough?
6. End with a review of learning over the past 3 sessions – the young people have been learning about child development (and what children need as they grow). They have also been considering themselves as parents/carers – acknowledging that it's a challenging role to play. Ask one more

question: *Who is looking forward to being a parent?* Take a show of hands and end with any positive comments any contributors want to make about what they are looking forward to.

Connecting with home

Information is provided in activity 3.15.1

Further learning activities are available that connect to this RSHP curriculum content

- 3.15.1 Being a parent: Important things about child development
- 3.15.2 Being a parent: What babies need/the best start in life

Practitioner Notes

