Family And Children

IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2015

Nowadays, many families have both parents working. Some working parents believeother family members like grandparents can take care of their children, while othersthink childcare centres provide the best care. Discuss both views and give your ownopinion.

Currently, many parents tend to be busy working, and they need to rely on someone else to take care of their offspring. While some people think childcare organisations can offer the best care, I would argue that it is better for children to be looked after by their grandparents.

On the one hand, it is believed that youngsters should be sent to childcare centres for some reasons. The first one is that since those centres are professional organisations, their staff are often well trained and therefore have good babysitting skills. For example, when a child falls over and gets himself injured, a staff can react quickly and give him first aid.  
Furthermore, children can have a chance to make friends with their peers when coming  
there, which might increase their communication and language abilities. If they are looked after by their family at home, they might feel a bit lonely.

On the other hand, I believe it is a better idea for grandparents to take care of their  
grandchildren. Firstly, as grandparents have lived for many years and have brought up their own offspring, they have much experience in raising children. For instance, they might know how to calm the baby down when he cries. Secondly, grandparents are family members, so they love their grandchildren more than other people do. As a result, they tendto spend much more time and effort caring for their grandchildren compared to a childcare staff member. Finally, youngsters looked after by their grandparents are likely to become more family-oriented and appreciate the value of a happy family.

In conclusion, while there are some benefits of children being sent to childcare centres, I  
believe they should be raised by their own grandparents.

Useful Vocabulary & Expressions:

• peer: a person who is the same age or who has the same social status as you  
Example: Children are worried about failing in front of their peers.

• effort: the physical or mental energy that you need to do sth (nỗ lực). Example: Youshould put more effort into your work

*IELTS Writing Task 2 in March 2016*

***In recent years, the structure of a family and the role of its members are gradually  
changing. What kinds of changes can occur? Do you think these changes are positive  
and negative?***

Recently, there has been a gradual transformation in the household structure and the way  
each member makes contribution to the family. In this essay, I would like to discuss several possible changes and demonstrate that those changes are totally beneficial.

To begin with, the way a family is organised is far different from that in the past. Firstly,  
men and women are now sharing the role of breadwinners. A few decades ago, fathers were those who earned money to raise the family, while nurturing progenies was the  
responsibility shouldered by mothers. Today, as a logical effect of gender equality,  
professional opportunities are available for people of both sexes, leading to the fact that  
both men and women should exert effort to make ends meet. Secondly, people now have  
an inclination to form nuclear families. The escalating competitiveness of the job market  
accompanying with the higher demands of living standards drives people to work overtime and have fewer children.

From my perspective, the aforementioned changes are totally advantageous. The first  
benefit is that the financial pressure that parents of medium-sized families have to burden  
is far less significant than that of large families. This allows them to save money for longterm purposes, such as affording a house or sending their children overseas for tertiary education. Another significant advantage is that the children of such busy parents can learn how to live independently and acquire a diverse mixture of qualities at a young age. For example, many youths today have to prepare meals and arrange the study schedules hemselves, which helps to sharpen up their self-reliance.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my position that the household structure and the role of each family member are altering in a positive way.

**Useful words and phrases:**

• **change/ alter/ transform** *(synonyms)*

• **breadwinner**: *(eg: My father is the breadwinner of the family).*

• **progenies**

• **shoulder responsibility** = **take responsibility** *(eg: Every team member  
should shoulder the responsibility for each of their actions).*

• **make ends meet** *(eg: Does the government really think elderly people can  
make ends meet on their pensions?)*

• **escalating**: *gradually increasing (eg: The escalating cost of healthcare)*

• **sharpen (up)** *(eg: Their reading skills will be sharpened up)*

*IELTS Writing Task 2 in May 2016*

***Nowadays, more and more people decide to have children later in their life. What are the reasons? Do advantages of this outweigh disadvantages?***

In contemporary society, adults are **inclined** to delay having children until they **reach their middle age**. In this essay, I would like to demonstrate several reasons for this tendency and discuss that its drawbacks outweigh its benefits.

To begin with, there are some explanations for people’s avoidance of becoming parents too soon in their life. A **prominent justification** is that they want to be **better-prepared** for the family life financially. Individuals **at their early stage of career** may find it **daunting difficult** to afford a youth’s **basic demands**, so it is reasonable for them to wait until they have **accumulated a sufficient amount of money** to **guarantee a fulfilled material life** for their children. Another reason would be that the adults may want to enjoy their life before having a new family member. In illustration, it is easier for married couples to travel without a child to nurture.

It is true that this **proclivity** of **procrastination** is advantageous to some extent. To be  
more specific, families living on a stable income is capable of providing their **offspring**with **high quality education** and **nutritious diets**. However, I hold the view that the  
disadvantages of this trend are more convincing. It has been scientifically proven that older parents are more likely to **give birth to** less healthy **progenies**. Those children may suffer from a number of serious diseases, ranging from **rickets** to **autism**. **In the long run**, this may **have an adverse effect on** the overall competence of the **future workforce**.

In conclusion, it is understandable why people want to have children in their middle age,  
but they have to stay alert to the aforementioned significant threats

*IELTS Writing Task 2 in July 2016*

***Studies have suggested that nowadays children watch much more television than they  
did in the past and spend less time on active or creative things. What are the reasons and what measures should be taken to encourage children to spend more time on active or creative things?***

There has been a worrying trend that children watch an excessive amount of television and do not engage much in active or creative activities. This trend can be ascribed to a number of reasons and it must be addressed by definite actions.

Reasons for the trend vary. The primary reason is that children’s television programs  
are being broadcast all day with addictive contents, such as vivid and colourful animations. Cartoon Network and Disney Channel with their all-day-long series of animation shows are an evident example of this. Another clear reason is that parents nowadays are busy with their work, so they want children to focus on an activity that does not require much of their attention such as watching television. These two reasons make children spend more time in front of the television screen; this sedentary lifestyle prevents them from participating in active or creative activities.

A number of strong measures must be implemented to tackle the issue. The first solution  
is limiting the amount of time that a child can watch television. This could be done by  
activating the parental control mode and setting a fixed operating time limit on their  
television set. Another feasible solution is that parents must spend more time with their  
children and together they could engage in outdoor or creative activities. For example,  
parents could form a family sport team that practices on a regular basis, which may appeal to children more than television.  
  
To conclude, there are obvious reasons why children watch too much television and spend little time on active and creative activities. This negative trend could be tackled by a number of remedies, such as activating the parental control mode on television sets.

**Useful words and phrases:**

• **Excessive** (a): If you describe the amount or level of something as excessive, you  
disapprove of it because it is more or higher than is necessary or reasonable.  
*Example: The government says that local authority spending is excessive.*

• **Additive** (a): Something that is addictive is so enjoyable that it makes you want to  
do it or have it a lot. Example: *Video movie-making can quickly become addictive.*

• **Sedentary** (a): Someone who has a sedentary lifestyle or job sits down a lot of the  
time and does not take much exercise.

*Example: Obesity and a sedentary lifestyle  
has been linked with an increased risk of heart disease.*

• **Activate** (v): If a device or process is activated, something causes it to start working.  
*Example: Video cameras with night vision can be activated by movement.*

• **Parental** (a): Parental is used to describe something that relates to parents in  
general, or to one or both of the parents of a particular child. *Example: Medical  
treatment was sometimes given to children without parental consent.*

• **To appeal to** (v): If something appeals to you, you find it attractive or interesting.  
*Example:  
On the other hand, the idea appealed to him.*

• **Remedy** (n): A remedy is a successful way of dealing with a problem. *Example:  
The remedy lies in the hands of the government.*