

HKDSE Examination 2014: English Language Paper 4

Question 1.3 : Helicopter parenting – good or bad?

Group Discussion Demonstration (recorded in Sep 2015):

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Level attained in DSE Eng Lang Paper 4</i>
A	2013	5
B	2015	4
C	2014	3
D	2015	5*

Transcript (with improved grammar in red)

Examiner:

You may start now.

D:

Good afternoon, everybody. Let's get the ball rolling, shall we? Er, today, our group wants to write a letter to the editor to express our views about helicopter parenting. First of all, ~~let us~~, let us discuss ~~about~~ the ... qualities of good parents. Personally, I think that good parents spend time to teach their children. They teach them not just in academic **knowledge**, but some moral standards that the children must know. They teach them soft skills so that their children can survive in the future society.

C:

Yes, you've got a good point. I think ~~being~~ a good parent, the ~~parent~~ ... must be patient ... because ... if, if a parent~~s~~ spend a lot of time with their children, ... they can protect them ... or teach them some skills such as ... cooking food. So, I think it is helpful for the children.

B:

Yes, I agree with your point ... that ... a good parent should ... should ~~be caring~~ **care** ... ~~for~~ **about** their children, ... what they want and what they ... need. And most importantly, I think ... the ~~qualities~~ **quality** of a, of good parent is to leave enough room for their children to develop their interest.

A:

Yeah, that's true. Besides ... ~~besides~~ teaching their children in ... every ~~aspects~~ **aspect** of their life and being patient ~~to~~ **with** their children, I think ... having more communication with their children is the most important **thing**. Because nowadays, ... many teenagers ~~have their~~, have some ... conflicts with their parents, especially when their parents ... interfere with their personal life ~~too~~ ... too ... ~~violently~~ **much**. And, in that aspect, some conflicts may develop between ~~their children~~, the parents and the children. I think having more communication between them is very important, to be a good parent.

D:

I see your point. I also agree that communication is important to resolve some ... conflicts between the parents and the children. And on top of that, I also think that ... ~~the~~ good parents should be also good role models for their own children. Er, for example, if the parents ~~do gambling~~ gamble, and their children may possibly ... be led astray. And so I think that being good, a good role model is also important.

A:

So, besides being good role models, I think ... we have generally come up with some points regarding how to be a good parent. But, ... regarding our letter to the editor, I think more importantly, we must ... decide on whether ... the subject matter – ... helicopter parenting – is good or not. So, now, let's start our discussion on this. I think ... based on what we have discussed so far on how to be a good parents, helicopter parenting should not be a good thing. Because helicopter parenting, as mentioned in ~~the~~ ... the letter given to us, it means that the parents hover over their kids all the time, times and interfering with all, different aspects of their life. I think this is actually what ... what leads to the loss of mutual trust between parents and children.

D:

I see your point, but ... I think that ... for helicopter parenting, there is one point, one advantage that we cannot ignore. It is because ~~that~~ ... during helicopter parenting, the children may get small fewer chances to go astray. It is because ~~that~~ the parents help the children to plan everything, and they know what their

children are doing and what they are learning at all, so that ... when the children ... possibly **want to** do something wrong, and their parents can stop them immediately. ~~How~~ **What** do you think about it **this**?

C:

Er, I agree that helicopter parenting is bad because ... ~~if the~~, if parents **are** ... always ... ~~been~~ with their children, and help them to ... decide something, or ... ~~help~~, help them ... solve their problems, ~~but~~ **then** ... the children ... will not understand ~~how to~~, how to solve the problems **s** by themselves. And ~~they~~, they **may not** even ~~don't~~ know how to protect themselves. So, I think ... helicopter parenting is bad.

B:

Indeed, ... helicopter parenting ... does something good ~~for their~~, for children to ... ~~develop some, some~~ ... in some aspects. And, but, from my point of view, I think that ... it is very bad for ~~children to~~ **the development of** ... problem solving skills **in children**. And if they encounter obstacles, ... ~~they~~, they sometimes think that others will come and help them to ... tackle the problems.

A:

So, we generally think that ... helicopter parenting is not good. But, in response to what candidate D said, I think it is really true that ... helicopter parenting is useful, or actually can protect their children, ... especially when their children make a wrong choice in terms of their, like some academic or extra-curricular activities

decision. But, I personally think that as the children grow up, ... parents ~~has~~ **have** to ... give more and more personal space to their children. Because when children become ~~an~~ adolescents **s** or young adults **s**, ~~they~~, I think the goal, the final goal of every parent is to ensure that their children can become ~~an~~ independent persons **s** who can make all the decisions **s** on their own. But, ... I think helicopter parenting implies that ~~this~~ **these** parents are not willing to let go of ~~everything~~ of their children, ~~and~~ **but they** try to invade their **children's** privacy or ... ~~control~~, have too much control over their children. I think as the children grow up, ... the parenting style should change gradually.

D:

Ah, I see your point and it, it's true that maybe if the parents really ~~do~~ **have a** helicopter parenting **style**, ~~and~~ the relationship between the children and the parents may get tense because ~~that~~ I think that the children won't like their parents to have so much control on them, as the children also want freedom. But I think that the intention of helicopter parenting is understandable. ~~So, I think that,~~ so I agree with, ~~also agree with~~ you that helicopter parenting may not be ... that good.

A:

So, as a group, we've finally ... agreed ~~on~~ that ... helicopter parenting is not a good thing, and parents should let their children ~~to~~ have more personal space. So, finally, ~~let's ... discuss~~ some let's discuss some ... reasons or common complaints ~~about~~, of teenagers about their parents.

D:

Er, ~~some~~ ... some teenagers may complain that ~~their~~ ... their parents are ignoring them because ~~that~~ Hong Kong, you know, **is** a financial metropolis, **and** many ... parents, ~~they~~ need to work all, all day, and then ~~seldom, they,~~ they seldom have time to spend time with their children, for example, going out and playing together. They don't have that much time to do so.

[End of discussion]