

## **HKDSE Examination 2014: English Language Paper 4**

### **Question 1.3 : Helicopter parenting – good or bad?**

#### **Group Discussion Demonstration (recorded in Sep 2015):**

<i><b>Candidate</b></i>	<i><b>Year</b></i>	<i><b>Level attained in DSE Eng Lang Paper 4</b></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 ~~parents~~ 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 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 or young adults, ~~they~~, I think the goal, the final goal of every parent is to ensure that their children can become ~~an~~ independent persons who can make all the decisions 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, as **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]