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2. ~~AS~~ Cotton Wool kids is a growing trend in New Zealand Society with more and more parents mollycoddling their children and having an unrealistic approach as to what may harm their children whether the harm be physical, emotionally or both. This essay will critically evaluate this growing trend from different perspectives and illustrate the potentially negative impact that the trend of cotton wool kids will have on New Zealand Society.

~~New Zealand has a reputation among the world as a place where children are let out to play in the vast playgrounds, parks and other areas.~~

Firstly, let's look at the positive aspects that are coming from Cotton Wool kids. Although in New Zealand we have a horrible rate ~~of~~ of child related deaths due to child ~~abuse~~ abuse, children's death due to accidents around the home are coming down and so is the accident related injuries around New Zealand homes.

One particular positive is the amount of children deaths occurring at private (ie in-home) swimming pools with more and more children having the ever watchful eyes of their parents due to their, in this case, necessary ~~an~~ ever watchful eye.

However, the fact is that the positives outweigh the negatives. With the growing trend of cotton wool kids in New Zealand society the children of New Zealand,

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* The growing trend of

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* As SPARC spokeswoman Sue Healey said parents are no too scared to let children out and play therefore more are stuck inside which isn't helping

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2. who are after all this nations future are being seriously negatively impacted physically emotionally and mentally.

One major impact is the ever growing child obesity epidemic that is occurring in New Zealand. With one in eight children (according to a NZ health survey) being classed as obese cotton wool kids is definitely not helping as more and more children are now spending more time indoors watching t.v and playing video games rather than getting outdoors and jumping around and playing at the playground. Due to the increase in fear that parents now have of their precious children from being hurt more parents are keeping their kids indoors so they can keep an eye out on them. As more kids stay indoors and not gain vital physical exercise New Zealand society is going to be more likely faced with an obesity epidemic and diabetes, high cholesterol and blood pressure will be a common health problem faced by New Zealanders. This in turn will have serious consequences on our health care system which could well be pushed to the limit.

Emotionally children are and will suffer due to this growing trend of cotton wool kids in New Zealand society. Due to more and more kiwi mums and dads all around the nation modelling their children, many kiwi kids aren't developing the skills,

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2. emotionally which they will need later on in life. We are becoming so politically correct as a society by cotton wooling our children at the fear of being called bad or uncaring parents that our children are not being able to develop. Parents have not let children join sports teams at the risk of their child losing and having to face this. If we cannot let a child experience such ~~emotions~~ emotions at a young age then how are they to face it when they get older when losing & rejection become part of everyday lives such as having a potential partner say no or a university say no or even a job interview. It is little wonder that when elder children face these problems for the first time due to being a cotton wool kid, that they do go off the deep end and turn to more harmful things such as drugs and alcohol. Adolescent psychologist Dr Ungenda argues this point. And he is not alone, many experts suggest that adolescent teens even those in ~~their~~ ^{their} that are between the ages of 18-19 face disappointment, ^{that} losing feeling and rejection for the ~~for~~ first time as their parents have always been their protecting them from such things.

Also it is the parents ~~for~~ fear of the child being ~~injured~~ ~~in 2 spots~~ ~~or~~ abducted or kidnapped that in fact is leading to such things. Years back children use to walk to school, catch a bus or even hang out at the local park and interact with society, learn what is out there. However, now children are spending the majority of their

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③ actually being
abducted.

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④ which ironically is putting them in
more danger with
health risks

⑤ when compared
to the
likelihood of
their children

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2. Time indoors engaging with the t.v. They are not developing risk management skills about who to talk to, where to go and what to do if something does happen. Therefore when they do go out they don't know what to do when approached by a strange scenario or a risky scenario as they haven't developed risk management skills about what will happen if they speak or get a ride with that stranger.

In this sense the media doesn't help either. ~~When~~ Children being abducted or kidnapped are rare but when it does happen there is always a frenzy of media attention reporting ~~often~~ almost always not saying how uncommon an actual event like this is.

One just has to look at the Madeline Alan example. By media blowing up over such rare occurrences it supports the fear that parents have and the fact is that it very seldomly happens, but due to ~~exaggeration~~ the media blowing up about it constantly is at the back of parents' minds, meaning more children are kept indoors.

~~It is also important to note the extract that we are given. It talks about making sure children have the right balance of physical ability and intellectual skills. By keeping more children indoors and wrapping them in cotton wool we are taking away this opportunity of physical ability. This will effect things such as their co-ordination and balance. If a child does not learn such abilities this will affect~~

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Q. We must also take into consideration what it means for the future of these children in terms of what they are going to do when they leave home. Due to the fact these children are having meals prepared for them, under constant supervision as to whether they did this or that, have had their laundry done for them they cannot fend for themselves. I consider myself to be a cotton wool kid and like most I have had everything done for me, and I know face a major problem. I am looking to go away for university next year yet I do not know how to fend for myself. There is going to be ~~for~~ no one to ask ~~if~~ if I have done my homework, ~~if~~ if I have no one to cook and prepare my meals, no one to do my laundry. As a cotton wool kid I cannot fend for myself. And I know question what this means for New Zealand. New Zealanders have that reputation for travelling and moving away from home however with the growing trend of cotton wool kids developing more ~~weaker~~ ill-prepared New Zealanders for the real-world, New Zealanders like me are going to find ever difficult to experience all that life offers such as travel and the great kiwi traveller will surely become a thing of the past.

In conclusion, there is always going to be that need to protect ~~the~~ your kids, however New Zealand parents need to take a step back and question whether they are doing more harm than good for their children.

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2. Yes just like all things there is good with the bad but the fact is that with the growing trend in cottons wool kids among New Zealand society, the future of New Zealand looks set to be a nation full of kiwis that are illprepared for the harsh realities of real life.

- A lot of critical thinking
- But also a lot of assumptions

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