

16. Parents & Children

What is the best relationship between parents and children? Some people say they should be friends. They say this kind of relationship provides a comfortable atmosphere for children, so they will grow less stressed and have a more positive character.

But others believe that a friend-like relationship between parents and children is somewhat "dangerous" for both of them. Under this relationship, no strict discipline can be enforced, so the children may become troublemakers. As these people say, if you spare the rod, you spoil the child.

Another issue is whether it is good for them all to live together after their children get married. It is true that a big family has many advantages that a nuclear one doesn't. But most children don't want to live with their parents, saying, "We don't want to be interfered with." Do you think parents have a right to criticize their children for refusing to live with them?

Comprehension

1. What reason is given for parents and children being friends?
2. What reason is given against parents and children being friends?
3. Why don't some married children want to live with their parents?

Express Yourself

1. Would you prefer being part of a big extended family or a small nuclear one?
2. If your wife opposed to living with your parents, what would you do?
3. How much allowance do you give your parents, if any? How much do they give you?
4. How often do you see your parents?
5. What kind of gifts do your parents like the most?
6. Do you think it's your duty to take care of your parents when they get old?
7. Would you spank your children if they went astray?
8. How many children do you want to have?



9. Do you want a boy or a girl for your first child?
10. If you had two daughters, would you try again to have a son?

