

TEACHER'S NOTES

overparenting

www.macmillandictionary.com



Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *overparenting* and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 30 minutes

Suggested level: Intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Encourage the students to read through the **Find the information** questions before they look at the article. When they have completed the exercise, ask them to compare their answers with a partner. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
4. When the students have completed the **Find the information** task, ask them to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully. Tell them not to worry about new items of vocabulary at this stage. These will mostly be covered in the remaining worksheet exercises.
5. Ask the students to work in pairs and discuss the answers to the **Comprehension check** questions. Then ask them to check their answers in the text.
6. In the **Find the word** exercise, make sure the students know that the words appear in the same order as they appear in the text.
7. For Exercises 4 and 5, encourage the students to do both tasks in pairs or small groups without looking at the text. Ask them to check their answers in the text.
8. The **Macmillan Dictionary** may be useful when doing Exercise 6. Ask the students to compare their answers with a partner and then check the answers as a class.
9. This *BuzzWord* topic lends itself to a brief discussion of the pros and cons of overparenting. Ask the students to read through the *BuzzWord* article again. Then ask them to work in groups of 3–4 students and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of *overparenting*. Listen to their ideas in a class discussion.

WORKSHEET

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Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/overparenting.html>

1 Find the information

Look in the *BuzzWord* article on *overparenting* and answer these questions.

1. What part of speech is *overparenting*?
2. How is the *over-parented* child described in the quotation from *Natural News*?
3. What everyday gadget is described in the article as 'the longest umbilical cord in history'?
4. When, according to the article, can *overparenting* start?
5. What is the first reason given for the growing tendency to *overparent*?
6. How long has the term *overparenting* been in mainstream use?

2 Comprehension check

Which of these parental actions take place during their children's *babyhood*, which take place during *childhood*, and which during their *teenage years*?

1. They are taxied to extracurricular activities.
2. They are not allowed to taste certain foods.
3. They help them to find part-time jobs.
4. They take them to school by car.
5. They help them with their school projects.
6. They attempt to protect them from exposure to germs in the atmosphere.

3 Find the word

Find the following words or expressions in the text.

1. a noun meaning *a fast repeated quiet sound*
2. an adjective meaning *harmful or damaging*
3. a noun in the plural meaning *dangers*
4. an adverb meaning *in a way that is not conscious or deliberate*
5. an adjective meaning *relating to things that you do at school or college that are not part of your course*
6. an adjective meaning *given a lot of care and attention, often too much*

WORKSHEET

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4 What do they do?

Fill the gaps using these verbs from the text.

hover lurk nestle foster spring up insist on

- Newborn babies _____ under protective buggy canopies.
- Parents _____ the necessary security of the mobile phone.
- Parents _____ like helicopters over their children.
- The media help to _____ a sense of fear about children's safety.
- Suspicious characters _____ outside school gates.
- New words (also known as *neologisms*) _____ all the time.

5 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs on the left with the nouns or noun phrases on the right. Check your answers in the article.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. fall into | a. an allergy |
| 2. develop | b. confidence |
| 3. draw | c. risks |
| 4. lack | d. someone's attention to something |
| 5. take | e. someone on their way |
| 6. help | f. a trap |

6 Word formation: Adjectives beginning with over-

Complete the sentences using the prefix *over-* and the correct form of the word in brackets at the end of each sentence.

- An _____ parent is one who is so worried about their children's safety that they prevent them from being independent. [PROTECT]
- An _____ person is one who is excessively careful. [CAUTION]
- An _____ person is one who carries out a particular activity with too much enthusiasm, energy or effort. [ZEAL]
- If you are _____, you worry far too much about something. [ANXIETY]
- If you are _____, you are wearing clothes that are too formal for a particular situation. [DRESS]
- An _____ person is someone who is forced to work too hard. [WORK]



KEY

1 Find the information

1. noun
2. protected and spoiled; lacks confidence; unable to take risks or make decisions
3. the mobile phone
4. right from babyhood
5. the fact that people are having fewer children
6. for the last decade or so

2 Comprehension check

1. childhood
2. babyhood
3. teenage years
4. childhood
5. teenage years
6. babyhood

3 Find the word

1. whirr
2. detrimental
3. perils
4. unwittingly
5. extracurricular
6. cosseted

4 What do they do?

1. nestle
2. insist on
3. hover
4. foster
5. lurk
6. spring up

5 Verb + noun collocations

1. f
2. a
3. d
4. b
5. c
6. e

6 Word formation: Adjectives beginning with over-

1. overprotective
2. over-cautious
3. overzealous
4. over-anxious
5. overdressed
6. overworked