

Reading: Learning from children

1 Answer these questions.

What are some useful things that ...

- 1 parents can teach their children?
- 2 parents can learn from their children?

2 Look at the article. What does the writer think parents can learn from their children? Do you agree?

How children get what they want

Children are very good at getting what they want. Take this example:

'Mum, can I go out and see Timmy for an hour?'

'Yes, of course.'

'I called Timmy and he's going swimming. Could I go with him?'

'Oh, OK then.'

'I don't have any money to get into the swimming pool. Could you give me some?'

'Well, all right then.'

'Would you give us a lift there?'

'I suppose so.'

'And could you possibly *pick us up* later?'

Hang on a minute! What's going on here? First they ask for something small and then they build on that to get big things. And it works because after we say 'yes', we want to think we did the right thing. We don't want to *contradict* ourselves, so we continue to say 'yes'.

So here's something we can learn from our children: how to *manipulate* people and make them do what we want.


3 Find words and phrases in italics in the article which mean the same as these phrases.

- 1 say something different from what you said before
- 2 go and collect someone or something
- 3 a ride in a car
- 4 make someone do what you want by influencing or deceiving them
- 5 wait

4 Discuss these questions.


- 1 Are children good at making their parents do what they want? How? Why?
- 2 Think of someone you know who is good at getting what they want. How do they do it?

Listening: Please

5  **1.2** English and American parents teach their children to say 'please' to be polite. But when do English speakers actually say 'please'? Listen to four people asking for things and match the conversations to the pictures. Then answer these questions.

- 1 What do they ask for?
- 2 Do they say 'please'?



6  Listen again and complete these extracts from the conversations. Write in the missing words.

Conversation 1

1 _____ your name, please?

Conversation 2

A: Sorry to ² _____ you, but I've got a ³ _____ ... I need to leave now. ⁴ _____ cover for me?

B: Yes, ⁵ _____.

Conversation 3

A: OK, ⁶ _____ sign here, please?

B: ⁷ _____.

Conversation 4

A: I need to take some ⁸ _____ up to the third floor ... There's a trolley over there. ⁹ _____ I borrow it?

B: Not ¹⁰ _____.