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1: THE TROUBLE WITH PARENTING — PARENTS!

Key concept:
Loving authority

A. WHAT IS A CHILD?

Watch!

The film extract



Discuss!

1. *In the scene from the film, what are the parents doing?*
2. *Introduce your child/ children to the people around you.
Mention at least three good things about each of your children.*
3. *Is there anything about your child/children which makes you think you might one day be called in for an interview with the headteacher?*

Listen & Note

Presentation A: What is a child?

- Circle any of the following answers with which you agree.
- Note down any consequences of thinking of a child in this way.

1. a random collection of atoms/chemicals

2. uniquely created

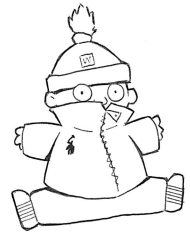
3. a consumer item/fashion accessory

4. innocent

5. naturally wayward

6. a blank sheet of paper

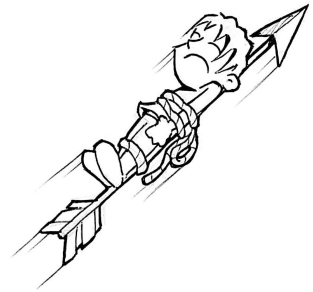
7. genetically programmed



*'For you created my
inmost being; you
knit me together in
my mother's womb.'
Psalm 139 v 13*

8. A gift from God

'An arrow into the future'



*'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when
he is old he will not depart from it.'* Proverbs 22 v 6

B. PARENTING PITFALLS

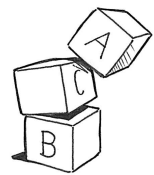
Discuss!

- 1. *What sort of parent are you?*
- 2. *Most of what we know about parenting we have learned from our own parents.
Reflect on the way your parents brought you up. Think of some of the things they did for you or to you. What standards did they set you?*

Listen & Note

Presentation B: An alphabet of parenting pitfalls

These are some of the unhelpful habits that all of us, even as loving parents, can get into while coping with our children.



Pitfall	Reason	Result	Antidote
A. Allow anything			

Pitfall	Reason	Result	Antidote
B. Bribery			
C. Child-centred			
D. Distant			
E. Explosive			
F. Fault-finding			
G. Guilty			

Pitfall	Reason	Result	Antidote
H. Hedging			
I. Inconsistent			

Discuss!

1. *'The trouble with parenting is that you can't get the staff.' Is that true? Why?*
2. *Why do some parents have a problem with authority?*
3. *Raising a child requires more than authority? What else is important?*

Think through at home

1. *How would you defend the idea that every child is precious?*

2. *In what sense are children both innocent and wayward?*

3. *Based on what you have learned so far, write a job description for a parent.*

'A child left to himself disgraces his mother'

Proverbs 29 v 15