

# Power, Inequality and Family Policy

## Parents and children

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Name and date begun:

### **Time allocation:**

3 lessons

### **Learning objectives:**

- Students should understand that childhood is a social construct
- Students should appreciate that we have changing notions of childhood.
- Students should recognise that the family is a major agency of socialisation of children.
- The legal status of a child is complex and inconsistent

### **Key Concepts and vocabulary**

See your lesson notes for a list of the key terms. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Phenomenology
- Social construct
- Childhood
- Childcare
- Legal status
- Rites of passage
- Adulthood
- 'Good' and 'bad' parenting
- Adults as children of elderly parents

### **Additional reading and references**

Haralambos and Holbourn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives 4<sup>th</sup> Edition* p 377 - 382

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* see index under all headings - child

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach* see index under all headings - child

Marcus and Ducklin (1997) *Success in Sociology* see index under all headings - child

**Make a note of any additional sources that you have used below**

## **Personal Development ideas**

- Ask people what they feel a good parent is.
- Do young people want children?
- Ask people with adult children what they feel a good child is.
- Ask people to think about what age it is that people stop being children.
- Use the Internet to see what you can find about children, childhood and parenting. There should be some interesting American sites.

## **Overview of the debate**

- What is the social construction of childhood in our society?
- What is the legal status of children in our society?
- To what extent is the government attempting to control and define how children and parents behave?
- What relationships do adult parents and children have? Should adult children or the state have to bear responsibility for their elderly or sick parents?

## **Revision tips**

- Be sure that you fully understand what changes are taking place in British society
- Be certain that you understand the social construction of childhood in our society.
- Be certain that you can discuss the legal status of children in our society.
- What social policies may Governments have to review or consider in the light of the changes that are taking place in our society?

## **What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:**

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Evidence that you have looked at least two textbooks and made notes.
- Evidence that you have shared notes with a friend
- An essay to the title:

**Evaluate the suggestion that the experience of childhood in our society is problematic for both adults and children.**