

Action for Children

Parent's worries

5th - 12th March 2019



Total

For the following question, by "services that support childhoods", we mean investing in and providing better access to children's centres, family support services, youth support services etc.

Do you think the UK Government is investing too much or too little into services that support childhoods, or do you think they are investing the right amount?

Unweighted base	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
The UK Government is investing too much	3%
The UK Government is investing the right amount	13%
The UK Government is investing too little	67%
Don't know	17%

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Still thinking about your child aged 11 to 18 whose birthday is next...

Which, if any, of the following do you think are important to your child for them to feel happy? (Please select all that apply)

	Unweighted base
	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Feeling loved and cared for by their family/ carers	85%
Having good relationships with their friends	81%
Being able to do hobbies they enjoy (e.g. sport)	66%
Having free time to themselves where they don't have to do anything in particular	67%
Spending time on their favourite electronic devices (e.g. x-box, tablet, phone etc.)	49%
Feeling safe to spend time outdoors in the area where they live	64%
Being treated fairly/ with respect and feeling they have a say in things that affect them	75%
Being comfortable with who they are and the way they look	76%
Other	3%
Don't know	2%
Not applicable - nothing in particular is important to my child for them to feel happy	2%

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Still thinking about your child aged 11 to 18 whose birthday is next...

Which ONE, if any, of the following do you think is most important to your child for them to have a good relationship with you? (Please select the option that BEST applies)

	Unweighted base
	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Being able to talk to me openly about their worries without feeling judged	16%
Setting clear rules and teaching them right and wrong	5%
Patience and forgiveness from me when they make mistakes	3%
Feeling loved and cared for by me	38%
Being supported and encouraged by me to do well in and outside of school	6%
Being treated fairly/ with respect and feeling they have a say in things that affect them	13%
Receiving physical affection from me (e.g. hugs)	2%
Spending time together doing the things they enjoy	8%
Other	1%
Don't know	4%
Not applicable – nothing in particular is important to them to have a good relationship with me	3%

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For the following question, by "childhood", we mean children in the age range of 0 to 18.

In general, which, if any, of the following do you think stop children from having a good childhood nowadays? (Please select all that apply)

	Unweighted base
	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Not feeling safe enough to play/ spend time outside where they live	40%
Too much pressure from school (e.g. homework, exams etc.)	47%
Threats to safety through technology and social media (e.g. not knowing who they're talking to, people using their information in a harmful way, people knowing their location etc.)	49%
Not being listened to or having a say in things that affect them	36%
Being bullied (e.g. online, at school, outside of school etc.)	63%
Family arguments and disagreements	37%
Poor mental health	41%
Too much pressure to fit in and to look a certain way	59%
Families not having enough money to live comfortably	44%
Too much time spent on electronic devices and social media	57%
Other	2%
Don't know	3%
Not applicable - nothing in particular stops children from having a good childhood nowadays	2%

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Now thinking about your child aged 11 to 18 whose birthday is next...

Which, if any, of the following do you think your child worries about? (Please select all that apply)

	Unweighted base
	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Being bullied (e.g. online, at school, outside of school etc.)	22%
Having disagreements/ falling out with their friends	37%
Pressure from school (e.g. homework, exams etc.)	45%
The physical and/ or mental health of their family and/ or friends	17%
Being a victim of crime online and when using technology (e.g. not knowing who they're talking to, people using their information in a harmful way, people knowing their location etc.)	8%
Being a victim of crime when they go out (e.g. knife crime, terrorism, robbery etc.)	14%
Their own mental health	17%
Their own physical appearance (i.e. what they look like)	34%
Family arguments and disagreements	17%
"FOMO" (i.e. feeling that people are always doing more exciting or interesting things than them)	20%
Our family not having enough money to live comfortably	22%
Other	2%
Don't know	6%
Not applicable - my child does not worry about anything in particular	11%
Prefer not to say	1%

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Still thinking about your child aged 11 to 18 whose birthday is next and what they worry about...

In which, if any, of the following ways do you think worries impact on your child's day-to-day life? (Please select all that apply)

Their worries affect...

	Unweighted base
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18 that have worries	1374
	1375
...their ability to focus their mind on what they are doing	37%
...their ability to make friends	25%
...their confidence to leave the house alone	14%
...whether they go to social events	22%
...whether they get a good night's sleep	32%
...their ability to be open with me	25%
...their ability to shake negative feelings	39%
...their energy to get on with things	25%
Other	2%
Don't know	11%
Not applicable – their worries do not impact on my child's day-to-day life	10%

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Total

As a reminder, by "childhood", we mean children in the age range of 0 to 18.

Do you think childhoods today are better or worse than when you were a child, or do you think they are about the same?

Unweighted base	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Childhoods today are better	9%
About the same	24%
Childhoods today are worse	60%
Don't know	7%

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For the following question, by "brighter future", we mean having better opportunities in life such as the chance of having a good career, being able to do the things they enjoy, affording a house etc.

In general, do you think your generation did or did not have a brighter future compared to children today, or do you think this is about the same?

Unweighted base	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
Children today do have a brighter future compared to when I was their age	22%
About the same	27%
Children today do not have a brighter future compared to when I was their age	42%
Don't know	9%

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Now thinking about the extent to which you worry about your child aged 11 to 18 whose birthday is next, compared to how much your parent(s)/ carer(s) worried about you when you were the same age...

Would you say that you personally worry more or less about your child than your parent(s)/carer(s) worried about you when you were the same age, or do you think this is about the same?

Unweighted base	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
I worry much more	32%
I worry a little more	27%
About the same	30%
I worry a little less	3%
I worry much less	1%
Don't know	7%

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Thinking generally about children today...

Which, if any, of the following do you want to be different for children today? (Please select all that apply)

	Unweighted base
	1559
Base: All UK parents of children aged 11 to 18	1563
More opportunities to get a good job	54%
More chance to do hobbies and have fun	36%
Safer streets/ lower risk of crime (e.g. knife crime, gang related crime etc.)	69%
Less pressure from school (e.g. homework, exams etc.)	43%
Less use of social media/ devices	55%
Less pressure to fit in with friends	40%
Less pressure around physical appearance	56%
More free time to themselves where they don't have to do anything in particular	27%
More services that support children and families who need help (e.g. children's centres, family support, youth support etc.)	42%
Safer online environment	51%
Other	2%
Don't know	4%
Not applicable - I do not want anything in particular to be different for children today	1%

Cell Contents (Column Percentages)