

YouGov questioned a representative sample of 620 parents throughout Britain online between 3 and 6 September 2004

Taking everything into account, how good a parent do you think you are?

Very good	30
Fairly good	62
Fairly poor	3
Very poor	0
Don't know	5

Do you think your parents were better or worse parents than you are?

Better	12
Worse	24
About the same	58
Don't know	6

Do you think children today are better behaved or naughtier than kids were when you were a child?

Children today are better behaved	1
Children today are naughtier	71
Children today are about the same	25
Don't know	3

Which of these phrases best describes your relationship with your own child(ren)?

Run rings round me much of the time	4
Run rings round me some of the time	25
Pretty well behaved	61
As good as gold	7
Don't know	4

Who is the main disciplinarian in your house?

Me	40
My husband/ wife/ partner	10
Both equally	50

Which, if any, of these methods do you use most to discipline your child(ren)?

Removing privileges	71
Rational discussion/ argument	49
Sending them to their bedroom	48
Shouting	47
Grounding' them so they don't see their friends	40
Light smacking	27
Bribing with treats for good behaviour	22
Hard smacking	2
Don't know	3
None of these	5

Do you ever feel guilty after disciplining your child(ren)?

Yes, often	14
Yes, sometimes	37
Yes, but not often	26
No, never	23

Have you ever smacked your child/ children?

Yes, frequently	2
Yes, sometimes	37
Yes, once or twice	37
No, never	24

Which of these phrases best describes how much help you receive from your parents or other adult relations?

They help with childcare	28
They help financially	7
They help both financially and with childcare	15
They are no help at all	14
Not applicable – e.g. they are deceased / too old / live too far away / are not well off	37

Which of these statements do you agree with more?

'The Government should do more to help people learn about being a good parent, for example by setting up parenting classes'	47
'The Government should not interfere, and leave it to parents to find out for themselves and make their own decisions about how to be good parents'	35
Don't know	17

Suppose you did NOT have children. Taking everything into account, do you think the quality of life for you would be higher or lower than it is?

Quality of life would be higher without children	42
Quality of life would be lower without children	34
Quality of life would be about the same	18
Don't know	6

Which of these has been the biggest sacrifice since you became a parent?

Disposable income	55
My social life	17
Sleep	11
Sex	6
Don't know	3
I have not had to make any sacrifices	7

How much time do you spend playing with your child(ren) on a typical weekday?

Don't have a chance to play with them at all	8
Up to 30 minutes	23
30 to 60 minutes	27
1 to 2 hours	19
More than 2 hours	24

Which of each of these statements apply to you? [Please tick all that apply]

'I often spoil my child(ren) and spend more than I can really afford'	31
'I don't feel able to spend as much on my child(ren) as they deserve'	30
'My child(ren) often persuade me to buy things, not because they need them but to let them keep up with their friends'	14
'I often buy my child(ren) treats just to shut them up'	11
None of these apply	36