



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the importance of parental responsibilities.
- ✓ Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small nuclear family.



Read the Passage

Today most people live in small nuclear families, and many wives work outside the home. This situation has led to the "latchkey kid" phenomenon. After school, children go home to an empty house, with both parents gone. It is feared that kids with career moms are lonelier than those from large families, and they have more trouble adapting to society. On the other hand, latchkey kids do not necessarily become problem children, if their parents spend time with them whenever possible. The solution seems to be love and adequate discipline. If parents are good role models, and perform their parental responsibilities well, most of the time their children grow up to be conscientious adults no matter what their family structure.

Useful Expressions

nuclear family – a family that consists of father, mother and children

latchkey kid – a child who spends part of the day alone and unsupervised, especially one who has a key to his or her home entrance after school while the parents are at work

role model – someone whose behavior or attitudes people try to copy out of admiration

conscientious – guided by or done with a sense of what is right or proper

Comprehension Check

1. Why are children with both parents working lonelier than other children?
2. According to the article, how can career parents avoid having problem children?



Let's Talk!

1. Should wives work outside the home?
2. Should husbands do household chores if their wives have a job?
3. How should a man feel if his wife makes more money than he does?
4. If a woman made enough money to support the family, should her husband quit his job to look after the house?
5. Who should be in charge of disciplining the children?
6. Which is better, a large extended family or a nuclear one?