

Group Talk: Students take turn leading a discussion of these topics. Express yourself, then ask others how they feel. This is a time for the teacher's to take a back seat.

1. Did you have a happy childhood?
2. Are you raising your children the same way you were raised?
3. Describe yourself as a child (personality and habits). Are you the same now? For example, if you were shy as a child, it doesn't necessarily mean you will be shy as an adult.
4. What were some of your happiest childhood memories?
5. Did you play outside often when you were a child? Do your children play outside? Is it important that kids play outside?
6. Were your first memories of school pleasant ones? Do your children like school?
7. Do you think kids don't have enough time to play these days? Is children's time too structured? Are children involved in too many organized sports and clubs?
8. What are the advantages for keeping children busy with organized activities?

Building Vocabulary: Take turns reading the paragraphs, defining the underlined words and phrases, and answering the questions with your group.

A business owner faces a dilemma when people bring unruly children into their store. Should they allow the children to run wild and risk damage to their merchandise, or admonish the children and risk alienating the parents.

1-State the problem in your own words.

2-Admonish means to warn or find fault with. Synonyms include caution, reprimand or reproach. These three words could be substituted for "admonish" in this sentence. Has anyone ever reprimanded your children in public? If someone reproached your children, would you be alienated?

3-Do Americans have more or less tolerance for unruly children than people in your country? Would you ever correct children that were not yours?

4-If you alienate someone, you cause them to feel negatively about you. Ex: The president alienated the public by ignoring their fears.

5-A dilemma is a situation that requires a choice between two difficult alternatives. Give an example of a dilemma you have faced in your life.

I think there is value in attending a school with a diverse student body. Diversity encourages understanding and sensitivity. I entreat you to send your children to a school that includes a mix of cultures.

1-What does this paragraph mean?

2-Do you agree with the sentiment?

3-Was your educational experience diverse?

4-Would you prefer your children go to a school with diverse cultures?

Children nowadays have abundant opportunities to get involved at school. There are school orchestras, bands, choirs, technical clubs, art clubs, cheerleading, sports, drama and various other activities. It's great that kids can explore their interests, but it sometimes means kid's schedules are very full and they don't have much free time.

1-What kinds of activities were you involved in when you were in school? Are you still interested in these activities?

2-Did you have much free time as a school age kid? Do your kids?