

Chapter 4 Families and households

Topic 2 Childhood

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Activity: Webquest

The cost of child-centredness

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key increases in the cost of bringing up children.
- Evaluate whether the increased cost of bringing up a child is due to child-centredness or consumerism.

A. Use the following website and the clip on the site to answer the questions.

<http://www.lv.com/life-insurance/useful-information/cost-of-a-child>

1. What is the cost of raising a child from birth to 21?
2. Are parents aware of the cost of bringing up a child?
3. What concerns do parents express about the cost of child rearing?

B. Use the weblink below to answer the following questions:

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/jan/23/cost-raising-child-surges>

1. From the chart, which categories of spending have increased the most?
2. What do these increases tell us about the changing nature of society?

C. Hattie Garlick is a journalist and blogger who wanted to overcome the impact of consumerism on her child's life. Watch the clip and answer the questions that follow:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/04/01/frugal-mum-who-went-a-year-without-spending-a-penny-on-her-toddler_n_7330714.html

1. Why did Hattie Garlick want to change the way she spent money?
2. List the rules that Hattie Garlick enforced to help her overcome consumerism.

There is further information from Hattie Garlick on the following podcast.

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/News/Canada/Audio/ID/2434776445/>

D. Read the following article and use it to summarise the impact of welfare benefit reforms on lone-parent families.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/dec/17/single-parents-skipping-meals-welfare-cuts>

Use your research to write a paragraph that discusses whether the increased cost of children improves their well-being or is just the result of an increased consumerism.