

# values and me

Good Childhood Evidence Summaries

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a national inquiry

evidence summary six  
– values



WHAT YOU TOLD US  
ABOUT VALUES



The  
Children's  
Society

# what you told us about values

Thank you to everyone who had their say.

This report is a summary of some of the things that you told *The Good Childhood Inquiry* about your values. What you have told us will help us find out what makes for a good life for children and young people living in the UK so that we can recommend changes that will improve things for all of you.



Thank you to all those who have responded to *The Good Childhood Inquiry*. So far, over 16,000 children and young people have told us what they think about their childhoods.

**Bob Reitemeier**  
Chief Executive, The Children's Society

Bob  
Aged 10½



# what you told us



You think that respect, kindness, friendliness and tolerance are the most important values.

**'We're all different so give everyone a chance. There is good in all of us.'**

You said that people should treat others as they would like to be treated themselves.

**'I think that if you treat people the way you wanted to be treated then you will have a happy life.'**

Most of you (58%) thought that being happy is the most important thing in life, 16% said 'to have a family', 10% 'to have a good job' or 'travel to see the world' (BBC Newsround poll and *The Good Childhood Inquiry*).



742 children and young people responded to the inquiry's call for evidence.

Most of you thought that being happy is the most important thing in life.

You think that it is good to learn to be responsible but you also want to be allowed just to be children.

**'I think that we need to be told what to do sometimes but need to have some responsibility.'**

You want the freedom to think and do things for yourself.

**'Being able to have freedom and not be told its wrong to do something you believe in.'**

You also want to be looked after and feel safe.

You want adults to listen to you more and to let you make decisions about your life.

**'Adults never seem to truly listen and we have good ideas.'**



8,000 young people  
took part in  
The children's Society  
national survey .



Fights, arguments, intimidating behaviour and drunkenness are the kinds of behaviour that make you feel most unsafe. You think that gangs are a growing problem in your area. But you don't like it when adults assume that children and young people are causing trouble or are in a gang when they're not.

**'To socialise and not be discriminated against because we are young. We are not thugs or vandals.'**

You don't like children who behave badly at school or around where you live and you think that adults should do more to address poor behaviour.

Most of you thought that adults in your local area were mostly friendly but one in ten of you said adults were never friendly where you lived (BBC Newsround poll and *The Good Childhood Inquiry*).



You don't like it when adults assume that children and young people are causing trouble or are in a gang when they're not.

One in 10 of you said adults were never friendly where you lived.





# what adults said



- ★ Adults believe that important values are love, patience, forgiveness and fun.
  - ★ Adults should value children more than anything else.
  - ★ Children need good role models such as those within their families, as well as adults at school and in the community.
  - ★ Children need to know what their boundaries are but at the same time they should be allowed to think for themselves.
  - ★ Schools shouldn't just concentrate on academic achievement but make sure that children are happy as well.
  - ★ Children and older people should talk to each other more.
  - ★ Adults should let children be themselves and let them make decisions that are important to them.
  - ★ Adults should stop spending so much time working and spend more time with their children.
  - ★ Lots of adults agreed that the media should stop portraying children in a negative way.
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As well as looking at the theme of values, we have also been looking at five other important areas in your life:

- ★ friends
- ★ family
- ★ learning
- ★ health
- ★ lifestyle

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