

词汇: *parenthood* 为人父母

There aren't many parents who would say that **raising** children is easy. For many people, having children can force parents to choose between career and family. Sometimes it comes down to finances – sending a child to **nursery** or hiring a **nanny** can be a huge financial **burden** that is unsustainable, while others may feel it's better to be a **hands-on** parent. These days, more and more men are choosing to stay at home to **look after** their **offspring**. So why are more **dads** opting to put their careers on hold, and what does the job entail?

With more women working outside the home than 70 years ago, if the need is there for one parent to stay at home, it could simply come down to who earns more – the biggest **breadwinner**. And with attitudes changing towards a man's role in the family, it seems to be easier for them to enter full-time **parenthood**. Sadly, though, men may still face stigmas by choosing to raise their child. A 2013 study in the US by the Pews Research Center found that 51% of people thought children were better off if a mother is home and doesn't have a job, while 8% say the same about a father. But what do parents have to do when they choose to stay with their kids?

In the early stages, a baby is totally dependent on a **carer**. The changing of **nappies**, **burping** after milk and making sure they **feed** on time are just some of the vital 24-7 activities an **infant** relies on. During this period, many parents take **paternity** and **maternity leave** from work. But as a child gets older, it can become less about necessity and more about choice. Rather than opt for a **creche**, which can prove expensive, either parent may remain at home to educate, protect and play with their child to help them develop and grow.

It's a difficult job, with a demanding 'boss', but it can also be incredibly rewarding for those willing to do it. And with attitudes changing towards who should stay at home, maybe more and more fathers will choose to become stay-at-home dads.

## 词汇表

<b>raise</b>	养育
<b>nursery</b>	托儿所
<b>nanny</b>	保姆
<b>burden</b>	负担
<b>hands-on</b>	事事参与，亲力亲为
<b>look after</b>	照顾，照料
<b>offspring</b>	子女
<b>dad</b>	爸爸
<b>breadwinner</b>	挣钱养家糊口的人
<b>parenthood</b>	为人父母
<b>carer</b>	护工，护理员
<b>nappy</b>	尿布
<b>burp</b>	拍嗝
<b>feed</b>	吃奶，吃东西
<b>infant</b>	婴儿
<b>paternity leave</b>	(父亲) 陪产假
<b>maternity leave</b>	产假
<b>creche</b>	日托中心

## 测验与练习

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What things are mentioned that may force parents to choose between career and family?

2. True or False? *There were fewer women working outside of the home 70 years ago than there are now.*

3. According to a 2013 study in the US by the Pews Research Center, what percentage of people thought children were better at home with their mothers?

4. According to a 2013 study in the US by the Pews Research Center, what percentage of people thought children were better at home with their fathers?

5. What are some of the vital activities mentioned that an infant relies on?

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I decided to stay at home and look \_\_\_\_\_ my children full-time.

after	for	down	before
-------	-----	------	--------

2. He's really a \_\_\_\_\_-on dad. He never stops!

feet	head	hands	toe
------	------	-------	-----

3. He decided to take \_\_\_\_\_ leave to stay with the baby.

burden	paternity	burp	feed
--------	-----------	------	------

4. The cost of a \_\_\_\_\_ was too high, so I decided to stay at home.

nursery	maternity	burp	breadwinner
---------	-----------	------	-------------

5. I think our son has a dirty \_\_\_\_\_. It's your turn to change it.

offspring	infant	nappy	hands
-----------	--------	-------	-------

## 答案

### 1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What things are mentioned that may force parents to choose between career and family?

**Sometimes it comes down to finances, while others may feel it's better to be a hands-on parent.**

2. True or False? *There were fewer women working outside of the home 70 years ago than there are now.*

**True. More women are working outside the home than 70 years ago.**

3. According to a 2013 study in the US by the Pews Research Center, what percentage of people thought children were better at home with their mothers?

**51% of people surveyed thought children were better off if a mother is home and doesn't have a job.**

4. According to a 2013 study in the US by the Pews Research Center, what percentage of people thought children were better at home with their fathers?

**8% of people surveyed thought children were better off if a father is home and doesn't have a job.**

5. What are some of the vital activities mentioned that an infant relies on?

**The changing of nappies, burping after milk and making sure they feed on time are just some of the vital 24-7 activities an infant relies on.**

### 2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I decided to stay at home and look **after** my children full-time.

2. He's really a **hands-on** dad. He never stops!

3. He decided to take **paternity** leave to stay with the baby.

4. The cost of a **nursery** was too high, so I decided to stay at home.

5. I think our son has a dirty **nappy**. It's your turn to change it.