

5 dangerous things you should let your kids do by Gever Tulley

WARM-UP

1. Finish the sentences connected with childhood and discuss them with your partner.

- My earliest recollection of childhood is
- What I can remember as if it was yesterday is
- I will never forget
- With hindsight, I would/wouldn't
- When I was a child I dreamed of being.....
- As a child I used to hate/love

2. Discuss questions in pairs.

- a. At what age could you go places by yourself?
- b. Could you play on the streets?
- c. What was the most dangerous thing you did when you were a kid?
- d. Would you say that your parents were overprotective?
- e. What are things that you could do as a child, but you wouldn't let your children do now? Why?
- f. Why are today's parents so overprotective?



VOCABULARY

3. Study the sentences and complete the definitions below with the underlined words and phrases.

- I take anything she says with a grain of salt.
- She bruised her leg quite badly when she fell.
- We had to figure out the connection between these events.
- He played a pivotal role in the negotiations.
- One fan was stabbed to death in a fight between gangs.
- Our goal is to empower everyone on our staff.

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- a) **figure out** : to be able to understand something or to solve a problem
- b) **take sth with a grain of salt** : to regard something as exaggerated; to believe only part of something
- c) **empower** : to give someone more control over their life or more power
- d) **stab** : to kill or hurt someone by pushing a knife or other sharp object into their body
- e) **pivotal** : extremely important
- f) **bruise** : to cause a mark to appear on someone's body by hitting it

VIDEO & DISCUSSION

4. The title of the talk is "5 dangerous things you should let your kids". What do you think the speaker has in his mind?

5. Discuss the questions:

- What 5 things does the speaker actually mention? **play with fire, own a pocketknife, throw a spear, deconstruct appliances, break the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (+ drive a car)**
- Which of these things you did when you were a child?
- Would you let your children do these things? Why/why not?
- Should we take the speakers words with a grain of salt?

6. Look at the statement by Hanna Rosin and complete each gap with one word only. Then, answer the questions.

HANNA ROSIN: *What I mean, is that we **have** become so preoccupied **with** safety, that we're basically robbing our children **of** the chance to take risks, the kind of physical risks, emotional risks, the kind of risks they need **to** become independent adults, basically. And so I tried to explore **why**. Why did that happen? How did we change **in** one generation so drastically the norms of childhood.*

source: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/parents-let-kids-take-risks>

Do you agree with her? How can we empower our children so that they can still become independent adults?