

## Parenting and Educating Children

### ***Welcome to Talk Time!***

How are you? How was your week?  
Discuss the idiom of the week – “Pick on”



### **Let's get started**

As a group, read the title of the story. Then discuss the questions below.

- What is a preschool? What do children usually learn in preschool?
- What does “required” mean?
- What do you think children learn at Cedarsong Preschool?

Now, read the story together.

### Cedarsong Preschool: Raincoats Required

Cedarsong Nature Preschool is located on Vashon Island in Washington. Cedarsong is not a normal preschool. Children spend all their time outdoors. Children bring raincoats, mittens, and rubber boots to school. On rainy days, they play in mud puddles. On cold days, they build campfires and pop popcorn over the flames. The children learn about nature and science. They also learn the names of plants. They learn which plants are edible, and they eat the plants as snacks. Kenny, the teacher, is excited about kids being outdoors. She says, “In American culture, people don't spend a lot of time outdoors.”



Gilmore, Susan. “Outdoor Preschool Takes Root on Vashon Island.” The Seattle Times. 20 April 2010.  
<[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011657278\\_preschool21m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2011657278_preschool21m.html)>.

Discuss these questions in pairs.

- Do you have children? How many? How old are they? What are their names?
- Would you take your child to Cedarsong Nature Preschool? Why or why not?
- Are there preschools in your native country? Describe the preschools.
- Do you enjoy the outdoors? Is it important to spend time outdoors? Why or why not?

Take a group poll.

- How many people would send their child to Cedarsong?

### **Conversation skills**

As we discuss, let's ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let's also use the phrase “Tell me more.” The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

**Discussion:** Discuss these questions as a group.

In your native country, who usually takes care of young children? Do mothers stay home with their children? Do fathers stay home with their children? Do children go to daycare? Explain.

Who cared for you when you were a child?

Did you have chores when you were a child? What chores did you do? Do you require your children to do chores? Why or why not?

What activities did you do as a child? (For example, did you play outdoors, play sports, play a musical instrument?) What activities do your children do?

Do you enjoy spending time with children? What do you like to do with children?

Do you think video games are bad for children? Why or why not? How do you feel about children watching television?

Do you read to your children? How often? What kinds of books? Why is reading to children important?

What do you think is the best way to discipline children?



What problems do children face today? (For example, is bullying a problem?) How can people help children with these problems?

What makes a good parent? What qualities does a good parent have?

What is most difficult about being a parent?

What are some important values that parents need to teach children? What values did your parents teach you?

Are there laws to protect children in your native country? (For example, are there laws about child abuse?) Please explain. What are some laws in the U.S. that protect children?

In your native country, what is the age that children begin school?

Do your children attend U.S. schools? How are U.S. schools different from schools in your native country? (Things to consider: cost, uniforms, homework, length of a school day, classroom size, etc.)

Do parents home-school their children in your native country? What do you think of home-schooling?

Do you think it is better to raise children in the city, a small town, or the country? Why?

**Group Reflection:**

What did you learn today? What do you want to talk about next week?