

World's children care most about education

21st November, 2012



A global survey has asked 6,204 children in 47 countries around the world about their hopes, dreams and fears. The worldwide "Small Voices, Big Dreams" report is from the children's charity ChildFund. It asked ten- to twelve-year-olds six questions about the world and their future. It discovered that education, food and the environment are their biggest worries. A ChildFund spokesman said: "We're always surprised...to see how much [importance] children...put on education." He added that he was pleased children saw the link between education and a better future: "It shows the depth of maturity of children, who clearly understand the connection between education and changing their worlds for the better."

The children were asked the question: If you were president or leader of your country, what would you do to improve the lives of children in your country? Most said they would focus on education. The children also answered the question "What are you most afraid of? Over 25 per cent of kids in developing countries said their greatest fear was dangerous animals and insects. The environment was also a big concern for the children. The report says: "Across the world, nearly half of children said they would either plant more trees, build additional green spaces or decrease littering to help improve the planet." Regarding future careers, almost 20 per cent of children want to be a professional athlete when they grow up.

Sources: <http://www.childfund.org/dreams2012/> / Reuters

Writing

Education is the most important part of a child's life. Discuss reasons for and against this.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

global survey / children / hopes / dreams / fears / education / a better future / link / leaders / dangerous animals / environment / half / green spaces / littering / athlete

True / False

- Researchers questioned over 60,000 children around the world. T / F
- The report in the article is called "Big Voices, Small Dreams". T / F
- The survey asked the children only six questions. T / F
- A spokesman was happy that kids linked education to a better future. T / F
- Most kids would have parties if they became leader of their country. T / F
- The biggest fear among the world's children was dangerous animals. T / F
- Almost 50% of kids said they wanted to plant litter and pick up trees. T / F
- Nearly 20% of the children wanted to get into sports in the future. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. global | a. questionnaire |
| 2. survey | b. make better |
| 3. discovered | c. sportsperson |
| 4. maturity | d. worldwide |
| 5. connection | e. found |
| 6. improve | f. concentrate on |
| 7. focus on | g. wisdom |
| 8. concern | h. extra |
| 9. additional | i. link |
| 10. athlete | j. worry |

Discussion – Student A

- What were your dreams when you were ten, and have those dreams changed?
- What are your hopes, dreams and fears for your children?
- What would you have done as a 10-year-old leader of your country?
- What would you as a 10-year-old have done to improve the lives of children in your country?
- What jobs did you want to do in the future when you were a 10-year-old?
- What were the most important things in your life when you were ten?
- Did you worry about the environment when you were ten?
- What questions would you like to ask 10-year-olds around the world?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. global | a. their biggest worries |
| 2. about their hopes, | b. on education |
| 3. food and the environment are | c. the better |
| 4. the link between education | d. concern for the children |
| 5. changing their worlds for | e. dreams and fears |
| 6. focus | f. when they grow up |
| 7. their greatest fear | g. and a better future |
| 8. The environment was also a big | h. more trees |
| 9. plant | i. was dangerous animals |
| 10. be a professional athlete | j. survey |

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word '10-year-old'?
- What was your like when you were ten?
- What were your biggest fears when you were 10? Are you still afraid?
- Is life for 10-year-olds the same or different from when you were ten?
- Do you think all 10-year-olds worry about education?
- What environmental concerns do you think 10-year-olds have?
- How strong is the link between education and a better future?
- What did you think about education when you were ten years old?

Spelling

- A global sevryu has asked 6,204 children
- from the children's atrihyc ChildFund
- their biggest ieowrrs
- how much ietorcanmp children put on education
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- the ionocctne between education and changing their worlds
- meopiry the lives of children in your country
- kids in gdpievenlo countries
- The environment was also a big cercnon
- eescdar littering to help improve the planet
- Regarding future acerers
- be a noiloaerfssp athlete

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. a	3. e	4. g	5. i
6. b	7. f	8. j	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Rich 10-year-old - You love your life. Tell the others 3 reasons why. You never want to change your life. You really need your iPad, PlayStation, 60" television & maid. It's not your problem other kids are poor. Tell them to get a job or study hard at school. Tell them you hate school and your teachers.

Average 10-year-old - You live in a nice house but your parents are not rich. Every month you give some of your pocket money to help children in poor countries. You feel bad they have no education or food. You hate rich kids – tell the others three reasons why. They should sell their toys and give the money to poor kids.

Poor 10-year-old - Your dream is to go to school. You have no parents and you spend all day looking for food for your little brothers and sisters. You want to be a teacher one day and tech in your village. You don't understand the lives of the other kids. Ask them three questions about their future.

Teacher - You know education is the most important thing for children. Even rich kids can have a tough life if they do not study. You think all children with money should help poorer children. You are shocked because so many rich kids have so many things. Tell them three things they should do to help poorer children.

Speaking – Being 10

What's most important for a 10-year-old? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| • candy | • not doing homework |
| • parks | • parents |
| • video games | • pets |
| • friends | • television |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.