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Put more babies into care: UK charity

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

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7th September, 2009

THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

A British children's charity has recommended more babies should be put in care at birth. The chief executive of Barnardo's, Martin Narey, told the Observer newspaper there were too many young children at risk. He pointed to the large number of parents with poor parenting skills. He said children needed urgent protection and that it was time for social workers to stop trying to "fix families that can't be fixed". Mr. Narey told reporters: "If you can take a baby very young and get them quickly into a permanent adoptive home, then we know that this is where we have success." He understands his views are shocking, but believes society should put the interests of children first. Narey thinks this is better than giving violent parents a second chance.

Mr. Narey's controversial comments come at a time when many cases of abused children have hit the headlines in the U.K. Most recently is the shocking case of two young brothers aged just 10 and 11. They attacked and left for dead two boys aged 11 and 9, causing them serious physical and mental damage. The two siblings had a very troubled childhood. Their mother gave them cannabis when they were toddlers and their father was a violent drunk. Social services took the brothers into care three weeks before their violent attack. Many say this was years too late. Another high profile case in Britain is that of "Baby P". He died aged 17 months from over 50 different injuries. Social workers repeatedly failed to protect him.

WARM-UPS

1. BABIES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about babies. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

charities / being in care / kids at risk / parenting / social workers / second chances / controversial comments / headlines / siblings / cannabis / drunk / toddlers / injuries

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. PROTECTION: How can we provide more protection for these members of society? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share your ideas. Change again and share what you heard.

	Do they have problems?	How can we protect them?
Babies		
The aged		
The homeless		
The unemployed		
AIDS sufferers		
Minorities		

4. CARE: Students A **strongly** believe putting into care babies who have violent parents is the best solution; Students B **strongly** believe putting children into care is TOTALLY wrong. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. HEADLINE KIDS: What do kids hit the headlines for in your country? Talk about these with your partner(s). Rank them – the most headlines at the top. Change partners and share what you heard.

- abuse
- crimes
- Internet
- sport
- English
- drink and drugs
- doing good things
- driving

6. CHILDHOOD: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'childhood'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. A British charity said babies need to be more careful. | T / F |
| b. A charity boss questioned some people's parenting skills. | T / F |
| c. The boss said some families could not be fixed. | T / F |
| d. The boss believes all parents need a second chance. | T / F |
| e. Children have been in the U.K. newspapers a lot recently. | T / F |
| f. Two boys aged 10 and 11 killed two other boys aged 11 and 9. | T / F |
| g. A mother gave her two sons marijuana when they were little. | T / F |
| h. A baby died from 15 different injuries to his body. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. recommended | a. unchanging |
| 2. poor | b. disturbed |
| 3. urgent | c. repaired |
| 4. fixed | d. continually |
| 5. permanent | e. hot |
| 6. controversial | f. suggested |
| 7. shocking | g. inadequate |
| 8. troubled | h. awful |
| 9. injuries | i. vital |
| 10. repeatedly | j. wounds |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. more babies should be put | a. of children first |
| 2. the large number of parents with poor | b. too late |
| 3. stop trying to fix families | c. second chance |
| 4. society should put the interests | d. dead |
| 5. giving violent parents a | e. the headlines |
| 6. cases of abused children have hit | f. in care at birth |
| 7. left for | g. to protect him |
| 8. Many say this was years | h. parenting skills |
| 9. Another high | i. that can't be fixed |
| 10. Social workers repeatedly failed | j. profile case |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A British children's _____ has recommended more babies should be put in care at birth. The _____ executive of Barnardo's, Martin Narey, told the Observer newspaper there were too many young children at _____. He pointed to the large number of parents with poor parenting skills. He said children needed _____ protection and that it was time for social workers to stop trying to "fix families that can't be _____". Mr. Narey told reporters: "If you can take a baby very young and get them quickly into a permanent adoptive home, then we know that this is where we have _____" He understands his views are shocking, but believes society should put the _____ of children first. Narey thinks this is better than giving violent parents a _____ chance.

Mr. Narey's controversial _____ come at a time when many cases of abused children have _____ the headlines in the U.K. Most recently is the shocking case of two young brothers aged just 10 and 11. They attacked and _____ for dead two boys aged 11 and 9, causing them serious physical and mental damage. The two siblings had a very _____ childhood. Their mother gave them cannabis when they were toddlers and their father was a _____ drunk. Social services took the brothers into care three weeks before their violent attack. Many say this was years too late. Another high _____ case in Britain is that of "Baby P". He died aged 17 months from over 50 different _____. Social workers repeatedly _____ to protect him.

risk
second
fixed
charity
interests
chief
success
urgent

profile
failed
comments
hit
violent
troubled
injuries
left

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

A British children's charity has recommended more _____ care at birth. The chief executive of Barnardo's, Martin Narey, told the Observer newspaper _____ young children at risk. He pointed to the large number of parents with poor parenting skills. He said children needed urgent protection _____ for social workers to stop trying to "fix families that can't be fixed". Mr. Narey told reporters: "If you can take a baby very young and get them quickly into a permanent adoptive home, then _____ is where we have success." He understands his views are shocking, but believes society should put the interests of children first. Narey _____ than giving violent parents _____.

Mr. Narey's controversial comments _____ when many cases of abused children have _____ in the U.K. Most recently is the shocking case of two young brothers aged just 10 and 11. They attacked _____ boys aged 11 and 9, causing them serious physical and mental damage. The two siblings had a _____. Their mother gave them cannabis when they were toddlers and their father was a violent drunk. Social services took the brothers into care three weeks before their violent attack. Many say this _____. Another high profile case in Britain is that of "Baby P". He died aged 17 months from over 50 different injuries. Social workers repeatedly _____.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'children' and 'charity'.

children	charity
-----------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• charity• risk• poor• quickly• views• second	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comments• shocking• serious• troubled• say• failed
--	---

STUDENT BABIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

Write five GOOD questions about babies in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BABIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'babies'?
- c) What do you think of Mr.Narey's recommendations?
- d) Do you think putting babies into care is a good idea?
- e) How can society make sure parents have better parenting skills?
- f) Should 'failed parents' be allowed to have more children?
- g) How can we identify babies and children who are at risk?
- h) Can all families be 'fixed'? How?
- i) Does your country always put the interests of the child first?
- j) How many chances should abusive parents get?

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BABIES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do children often hit the headlines in your country?
- c) Is yours a child-friendly country?
- d) Why do you think there is a rise in the number of terrible crimes committed by children?
- e) Should children go to prison? At what age is a child a criminal?
- f) What should happen to the 10 and 11-year-old boys in the article?
- g) What can society do to help these children become better people?
- h) Were children really bad when you were younger?
- i) Do you ever think society is too violent to bring children into?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Martin Narey?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/0909/090907-babies.html>

A British children's charity has (1) ____ more babies should be put in care at birth. The chief executive of Barnardo's, Martin Narey, told the Observer newspaper there were too many young children at (2) _____. He pointed to the large number of parents with poor parenting skills. He said children needed urgent protection and that it was time for social workers to stop trying to "fix families that can't be (3) ____ ". Mr. Narey told reporters: "If you can take a baby very young and get them (4) ____ into a permanent adoptive home, then we know that this is where we have (5) _____." He understands his views are shocking, but believes society should put the interests (6) ____ children first. Narey thinks this is better than giving violent parents a second chance.

Mr. Narey's controversial comments come at a time when many cases of abused children have (7) ____ the headlines in the U.K. Most recently is the shocking case of two young brothers aged (8) ____ 10 and 11. They attacked and left for dead two boys aged 11 and 9, causing them serious physical and mental damage. The two siblings had a very (9) ____ childhood. Their mother gave them cannabis when they were toddlers and their father was a violent (10) _____. Social services took the brothers into care three weeks before their violent attack. Many say this was years too late. Another (11) ____ profile case in Britain is that of "Baby P". He died aged 17 months from over 50 different injuries. Social workers (12) ____ failed to protect him.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) recommend | (b) recommending | (c) recommends | (d) recommended |
| 2. | (a) risk | (b) risky | (c) risked | (d) riskiness |
| 3. | (a) fixing | (b) fixed | (c) fix | (d) fixes |
| 4. | (a) quick | (b) quicker | (c) quickly | (d) quickness |
| 5. | (a) successful | (b) successfully | (c) success | (d) successive |
| 6. | (a) by | (b) of | (c) at | (d) in |
| 7. | (a) punched | (b) slapped | (c) smacked | (d) hit |
| 8. | (a) just | (b) justice | (c) justness | (d) adjust |
| 9. | (a) trouble maker | (b) troubled | (c) troubles | (d) trouble |
| 10. | (a) drinking | (b) drank | (c) drink | (d) drunk |
| 11. | (a) tall | (b) height | (c) high | (d) big |
| 12. | (a) repeatedly | (b) repeat | (c) repeats | (d) repetition |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the children's charity Barnardo's. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BABIES: Make a poster about babies and how to look after them. Put the five most important things new parents need to know. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. IN CARE: Write a magazine article about a child in care. Include imaginary interviews with the child, its new parents and its real parents.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Martin Narey. Ask him three questions about children in care. Give him three suggestions on what he should do for new parents. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. T d. F e. T f. F g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. recommended | a. suggested |
| 2. poor | b. inadequate |
| 3. urgent | c. vital |
| 4. fixed | d. repaired |
| 5. permanent | e. unchanging |
| 6. controversial | f. hot |
| 7. shocking | g. awful |
| 8. troubled | h. disturbed |
| 9. injuries | i. wounds |
| 10. repeatedly | j. continually |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. more babies should be put | a. in care at birth |
| 2. the large number of parents with poor | b. parenting skills |
| 3. stop trying to fix families | c. that can't be fixed |
| 4. society should put the interests | d. of children first |
| 5. giving violent parents a | e. second chance |
| 6. cases of abused children have hit | f. the headlines |
| 7. left for | g. dead |
| 8. Many say this was years | h. too late |
| 9. Another high | i. profile case |
| 10. Social workers repeatedly failed | j. to protect him |

GAP FILL:

Put more babies into care: UK charity

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Mr. Narey's controversial **comments** come at a time when many cases of abused children have **hit** the headlines in the U.K. Most recently is the shocking case of two young brothers aged just 10 and 11. They attacked and **left** for dead two boys aged 11 and 9, causing them serious physical and mental damage. The two siblings had a very **troubled** childhood. Their mother gave them cannabis when they were toddlers and their father was a **violent** drunk. Social services took the brothers into care three weeks before their violent attack. Many say this was years too late. Another high **profile** case in Britain is that of "Baby P". He died aged 17 months from over 50 different **injuries**. Social workers repeatedly **failed** to protect him.

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - a 3 - b 4 - c 5 - c 6 - b 7 - d 8 - a 9 - b 10 - d 11 - c 12 - a