

## Parent Interviews

One of the best ways to find out about parenting is to talk with people who are parents. You are to interview 4 sets of parents. Try to select couples with whom you feel comfortable with and who will answer your questions openly and honestly. You will need to find the following types of parents:  
1) parents of a newborn baby 2) a couple with small children (toddlers to elementary age) 3) parents of teenagers 4) parents that all their children are raised and have left home.

This assignment can be done over the phone and so there is no need to travel around to get this information. Please remember to **never** ask anything that is personal or private in nature.

The following are some **suggested** ideas to discuss. Remember that all you want to know is general information about what it takes to be a parent.

In what ways would you suggest that a person be ready before becoming a parent?  
What makes a successful parent in your opinion?  
What are the challenges and the rewards of parenting?  
What is the best way to handle problems with your children?  
What advice would they give others that are about to become parents?  
How does parenting change over time?

The written part of the assignment:

Write a one paragraph summary per couple with the things shared with you (a total of 4 paragraphs). Write a summary consisting of what you have learned from these parents. Include common ideas or attitudes concerning parenting. What did you learn about parenting in general? From your findings, what do you believe it takes to be a successful parent? This summary must be at least two paragraphs in length.

Oral presentation:

Be prepared to share your summary with the class.