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## **Level 4**

# **Children in US safest for two decades**

**25th December, 2014**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-4.html>

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**Please try the harder Level 5 and the 26-page Level 6 (harder).**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-4.html>

A report says American children are safer today than they were 20 years ago. The study is from the Child Well-Being Index, which has been made since 1975. It measures the quality of life among US children. The best figure is that child death rates have gone down by a third since 1975. Suicide rates among teens have fallen and fewer children experience violent crime. Teen births are at their lowest level in decades. Children are also better educated today.

The report highlighted some negatives. Child health has worsened.

A major cause of this is obesity. Teenagers are spending longer indoors using technology. This may protect kids from physical dangers outdoors but can harm their health. Child poverty still affects millions of children. This has not changed in the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013. This is about the same as it was in 1995.

Sources: <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20141217/New-report-finds-that-American-children-are-generally-safer-better-educated.aspx>  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-american-kids-safer-healthier-balancing-20141218-column.html>  
<http://childandfamilypolicy.duke.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Child-Well-Being-Report.pdf>

# MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. children are safer today than they | a. crime             |
| 2. the Child Well-                    | b. level in decades  |
| 3. It measures the quality            | c. third since 1975  |
| 4. down by a                          | d. Being Index       |
| 5. Suicide rates                      | e. educated          |
| 6. violent                            | f. of life           |
| 7. at their lowest                    | g. among teens       |
| 8. better                             | h. were 20 years ago |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. The report highlighted some | a. was in 1995    |
| 2. Child health has            | b. dangers        |
| 3. A major cause of this       | c. their health   |
| 4. Teenagers are spending      | d. worsened       |
| 5. protect kids from physical  | e. is obesity     |
| 6. harm                        | f. poverty        |
| 7. Child                       | g. negatives      |
| 8. about the same as it        | h. longer indoors |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-4.html>

A report says American children are safer today (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
20 years ago. The study is from the Child (2) \_\_\_\_\_, which  
has been made since 1975. It measures the (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
among US children. The best figure is that child death rates have gone down  
by a third since 1975. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ among teens have fallen  
and fewer children experience (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Teen births are  
at their lowest level in decades. Children (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
educated today.

The report highlighted (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Child health has  
worsened. A major (8) \_\_\_\_\_ obesity. Teenagers are  
spending longer indoors (9) \_\_\_\_\_. This may protect kids  
from physical dangers outdoors (10) \_\_\_\_\_ health. Child  
poverty still affects millions of children. This (11) \_\_\_\_\_ in  
the past 20 years. About 20 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013.  
This is about the (12) \_\_\_\_\_ 1995.

# CHILDHOOD SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1412/141225-childhood-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about childhood 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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

*Children in US safest for two decades – 25th December, 2014*  
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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_
- g) \_\_\_\_\_
- h) \_\_\_\_\_

