

CHILD OF OUR TIME

BBC



Register now and your school could be one of several schools selected for the filming of *Child of our Time*. The next TV series will be broadcast in 2005 and your school could be featured.

Child of our Time is a major BBC ONE television series following 25 children, born at the turn of the millennium, until they are 20. This year the children start school and the BBC is working with the Open University to involve Infant, Junior and Primary schools across the country in a new project to gather national data on themes that will be featured in the next *Child of our Time* series.

You have a unique opportunity for your class, year group or school to join with other schools across the country to:

- take part in an innovative national survey
- see how your school fits in to a national picture

This project will include support materials for circle time discussions, individual and collaborative work, interactive web questionnaires and downloadable activities. They are designed for children to engage in learning in core and foundation subjects within the **PSHE and Citizenship** curriculum areas. The three themes covered by the programmes and the related research activities will also provide opportunities for developing crucial **Speaking and Listening** skills. They will have cross-curricular links and lesson plans for you to use with your class.

The themes are: **Families, Screen Time and Identity**.

The project activities are designed for primary school classes from the Foundation Stages of the Reception Year through to both KS1 and KS2 and will be available to you from the beginning of May 2004.

You will be able to take part in this national project for just one, for two or for all three of the themes. Each theme's activity should take no more than one lesson to complete. You will have until the end of the summer term to join in the project or you may opt to carry out the activities with new classes in September.

The additional support material will give you the chance to explore each PHSE and Citizenship area in greater depth or in a cross-curricular approach when it is most appropriate for you and the children in your school.

The aim of the project is to build up a national picture of:

- how children view the roles of parents
- children's experience of TV viewing, computers and console games
- how children perceive their identities

This project will then be able to link *Child of our Time's* 25 children with nationwide trends and the Open University will analyse and publish the findings.

To register, visit the website at www.open2.net/childofourtime

THEME A: **FAMILIES**

CONTEXT

The roles of parents are changing – more mothers are at work than ever before (58 per cent of mothers with children under five are now working full or part time) and fathers are spending more time at home. But to what extent are children aware of these changes? How much do they welcome them? How much are they still reflecting old stereotypes?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Through circle time discussion we will be inviting children to think about and discuss what makes a good Mum and a good Dad. They will be given a range of descriptions to choose from and rank, considering what are the most important qualities of being a good parent. They will also be asked to consider which public figures and celebrities might make good Mums or Dads. Downloadable data sheets and an interactive website will enable easy data entry into the national survey.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM/QCA LINKS AND FOLLOW UP SUPPORT MATERIAL

- PHSE and Citizenship
- Literacy – stories and poems
- Drama – role play
- Art
- Numeracy – data handling
- History – (research KS2 – The Victorians and family life)
- Geography – (research KS2 – Family life in a contrasting locality)

THEME B: **SCREEN TIME**

CONTEXT

Many children now spend a great deal of their time watching TV, playing console games and on the computer. Adding in time spent with magazines and films, these media now constitute a major part of children's leisure. For some children, this may take up as much of their time as school lessons. How do young children respond to their increasing contact with these media? Are these solitary pursuits or is there a social benefit to them? Have these media supplanted other leisure time activities like play and sport?

SCREEN TIME ACTIVITY

The class activities and the data collection exercise will address these questions through exploring how big a part these different media play in children's lives and how they respond to them. Among the questions to be asked will be:

- How many TV's are there in the home?
- What are children's preferences for different sorts of 'screen time'?

NATIONAL CURRICULUM/QCA LINKS AND FOLLOW UP SUPPORT MATERIAL

- PHSE and Citizenship
- Numeracy
- Literacy

THEME C: IDENTITY

CONTEXT

How does our identification with one group (gender/ethnicity/religion) rather than another develop? What does this identity mean for how we see ourselves and how we perceive that others see us?

In their 5th year children are shifting their thinking from being self-absorbed to thinking about other people and their differences.

Primary school children are learning how and where they fit into the world. Their growing conceptions of which groups they belong to or don't belong to will influence their experiences in school - and a lifetime ahead.

IDENTITY ACTIVITY

Through an interactive web page and a downloadable data collection sheet, children will be asked to select from a range of photographs which children they are most like and which children they would like to choose to do things with. This data can then be easily entered into the national survey.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM/QCA LINKS AND FOLLOW UP SUPPORT MATERIAL

- PHSE and Citizenship
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Literacy