


Rights and duties

1 Too many duties?

 a) *What jobs do you have to do at home? Write a list and compare it with a partner's list.*

b) *Read the text. Make a note of all the things that Tamara has to do.*

My name's Tamara. I'm fifteen. I live in Birmingham with my mum and dad, my sister Daisy and my brother Mason. Mason's five and Daisy's nine.

Daisy is disabled and I help my mum to care for her. My dad's a long-distance lorry driver, so he's often away for a week or more.

Something went wrong when Daisy was born. Her brain was damaged, so she will never really grow up. The problem is that her body will grow, but her brain will stay at about 3 years old. Also, she can't see very well.

I go to the local comprehensive school, Mason goes to the local primary school and Daisy goes to a special school.


Mum works at a bank. That means that in the mornings we have to get to four different places. It's very hard on Mum, so I try to help as much as I can. I give Daisy

a shower and dress her while my mum gets breakfast and makes our packed lunches. Then Mum takes Mason to school and I wait with Daisy for the special bus that picks her up on school days. Then I go to school. After school I cook the tea while Mum does things for Daisy, then after tea I put Daisy to bed and start on my homework.

Most people at school don't know about Daisy, and if I meet my friends after school, I go to their houses. One friend came home with me once, but she said that she was upset by Daisy. She has never come again. There is one friend who comes to the park with us sometimes. She's OK with Daisy, and that's great.

It's a bit difficult at weekends, and we don't often go out together as a family. People don't understand a nine-year-old who acts as if she was three. I often look after Daisy so that my mum can go shopping, and if I go shopping, I go with my friends, because Mum has to stay home with Daisy.



 c) *Work in a small group (4-6). Compare your lists from part a) with the list for Tamara (part b). Do you think Tamara has to do too much? Why or why not?*


 d) *Do a class survey on duties at home.*

Boy/Girl	Brothers and sisters	Older/ Younger	Go shopping	Clean own room	Feed animals	Do dishes	Other duties	Feelings: OK or not OK
girl	two brothers two sisters	one older brother	✓	✗	✓	...	...	not OK
boy	only child	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

e) *Report to the class on the results, e.g. difference between big families (5 or 6 children, or more) and families with only one or two children/difference between boys and girls/difference in duties/...*

2 The Young Carers

a) *Think: Who or what could maybe help Tamara: a relation, someone from Social Services, a club, ...?*


 b) *Pair: Read this report on the Young Carers' group. What is it and why is it important to people like Tamara and Tom?*

Once a month Tamara goes to a meeting of a 'Young Carers' group. "It's really important to me," she says. They can play sports and games and chat. "It's great," Tamara says, "because they're all like me. I don't have to explain about Daisy. They know what it's like."

Some of the young carers who go to the group are looking after a parent. Tom is 12. His mum is in a wheelchair. "She can only use one hand," he says, "so I do the cooking." Things used to be very difficult, but now life is easier because his mum has a special car. "Now we can go to the supermarket and do the shopping together!" Tom says.

Tamara and Tom are both looking forward to a special holiday. They're going to the Young Carers' Festival for a weekend. "It'll be great," Tom thinks. "You can do things like rock climbing and abseiling."

"And they'll have a disco, too!" Tamara adds.

 c) *Share: Do you think the Young Carers' group is the solution to Tamara and Tom's problems? What else could help them? Make some suggestions and discuss them in your group, then report to the class.*

(Think about young people you know, who help to care for a brother or sister, or a parent or grandparent. Do you think it's right for young people to do this? Do they have too many duties and not enough rights? What do can be done to help them?)

Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

Ex. 1

- a) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*
- b) help to care for sister, give Daisy a shower, dress her, wait with Daisy for special bus, go to school, cook the tea, put Daisy to bed, do homework, look after Daisy while mum goes shopping
- c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*
- d) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*
- e) Here are the results of our survey: We found that some/most/... of the girls in the class help at home but ... boys don't./We found that most/only three/ ... pupils help at home. Four/... boys and ... girls go shopping for the family. Five/... boys and ... girls clean their own room. Twelve/... pupils feed animals (eight/... girls and four/... boys). Four/... girls and ... boys do the dishes. Ten/... pupils do other duties. ... girls and ... boys are not happy about their situation. The most surprising result was to find out that girls/boys/children from big families ... We were also surprised that there are differences between ... and ..., for example, ...

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

Ex. 2

- a) I think an adult from Social Services could help Tamara and her family to look after Daisy. Then Tamara could go out with her friends more often. Maybe an aunt or cousin could stay with Daisy while her mother goes out with Tamara. If there was a club for children like Daisy then she could go there at the weekends and the others in the family could go on a trip or visit friends.
- b) The Young Carers' group is an organisation for young people like Tamara. It is important because they can meet other young people there who have to care for someone. They can talk about their problems and they can go on trips and holidays together.
- c) *Individuelle Schülerlösungen.*