

[Unauthorized use of ad tag](#)

Hard-pressed parents struggle to help with schoolwork

- Cambridge report warns of 'scholarisation'
- Drive to get families involved could backfire

Polly Curtis, education editor
The Guardian, Thursday 22 November 2007

Parents feel intense pressure to read to their children and help them with their schoolwork but struggle to find the time, according to a report. It suggests that they should instead be protecting play time from an encroaching "scholarisation" of childhood.

The research, which will become part of the Cambridge University Primary Review, says drives to encourage parents to get more involved in their child's education - which are likely to be a focus of the 10-year children's plan which ministers are preparing to deliver next month - could backfire.

Facebook Share 0

Tweet 0

0

LinkedIn Share 0

Email



Article history

UK news

Education

Schools · Primary schools

[Unauthorized use of ad tag](#)

On UK news

Most viewed

Latest

Last 24 hours



1. NSA monitored calls of 35 world leaders after US

Some parents are intimidated by academia, while others feel guilty for failing to live up to expectations, according to in-depth research published as part of the biggest review of primary education in 40 years.

"While parents often welcome advice as to how to help their children with school-focused work, too high an expectation of what is achievable can lead to pressure and guilt for some and resentment for others. Neither emotion is likely to enhance the relationships between parents and their children's teachers."

Many children feel protective towards their free time, it says. "The scholarisation of childhood presents parents with dilemmas: how far to protect children from its incursions, and how far to help them engage with its agendas. Parents have an important function in helping their children to have some free time." The researchers argue that the extension of breakfast clubs and after-school clubs - sold by the government as "wraparound" care for busy parents - can increase the pressures on children.

Schools find it increasingly difficult to talk to parents, as family structures have shifted: "Children may be living in two places over the week with different sets of siblings, both birth and step, in each. Schools in such circumstances may find it difficult to know which parent is the first point of contact," one report says.

The research says that many parents in one study said they felt "uncomfortable" about taking on a teaching role, and were concerned about "importing the classroom into the home" as a result of their children doing more schoolwork on computers.

Today's reports are four of 30 which are being released this winter. They will inform the panel of experts conducting the review of primary education, led by Cambridge University's Robin Alexander.

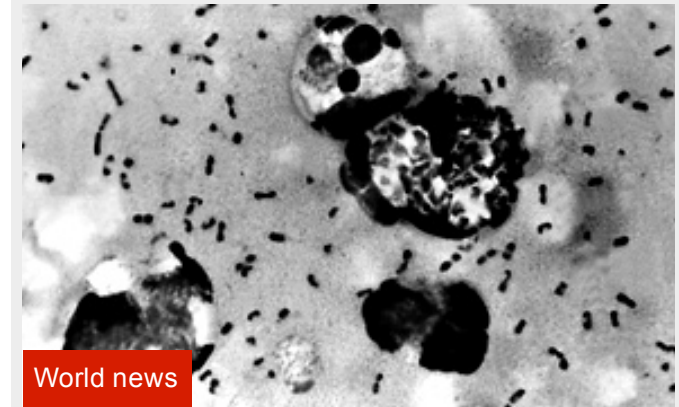


official handed over contacts

2. [Britain braces for stormy weather](#)
3. [How Educating Yorkshire helped me find my voice | Musharaf Asghar](#)
4. [Medical tourism generates millions for NHS and wider economy, finds study](#)
5. [Cesc Fábregas: 'Arsenal is in my heart. I'd love to go back one day'](#)

[More most viewed](#)

On the Guardian today



World news

Chinese city sealed off after bubonic plague death





Get the Guardian's daily US email

Our editors' picks for the day's top news and commentary delivered to your inbox each morning.

[Sign up for the daily email](#)

[f Share](#) [Tweet](#) [in Share](#) [Email](#)

More from the guardian

[MH17: US intelligence says Russia 'created conditions' for plane disaster](#) 22 Jul 2014

[Welsh boxer Fred Evans refused Commonwealth Games accreditation](#) 22 Jul 2014

[Commonwealth Games can provide Australian redemption even if no one cares](#) 23 Jul 2014

[Prince George in dungarees: why his retro style rules](#) 22 Jul 2014

[England's status quo cannot prevail against India in third Test](#) 22 Jul 2014

More from around the web

Promoted content by Outbrain

[Warren Buffett's "Secret Shopper" Stuns Saleswoman](#) (FastLane)

[O.J. Simpson's Kids 20 Years Later: 'They Will Always Love Their Dad,' Aunt Reveals — Plus Why They 'Don't Talk About' Their Mom's Murder](#) (Radar Online)

[Rory McIlroy, FHM model Nadia Forde party at Irish bar until early morning, drive off together](#) (Golf - PGA News)

[LeBron James's op-ed perfectly spoofed by 'Tim Duncan' letter](#) (The Daily Dot)

[The Secret of R.I.C.E and How it Works](#) (3M)

Recommended by Outbrain



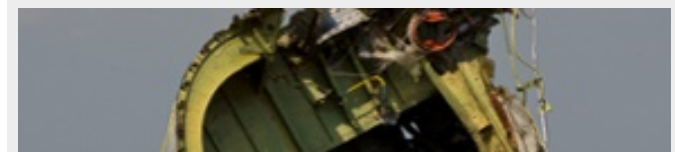
Football

Louis van Gaal can break world transfer record for Manchester United



Society

Parents who allow female genital mutilation will be prosecuted



Ads by Google

University of Phoenix

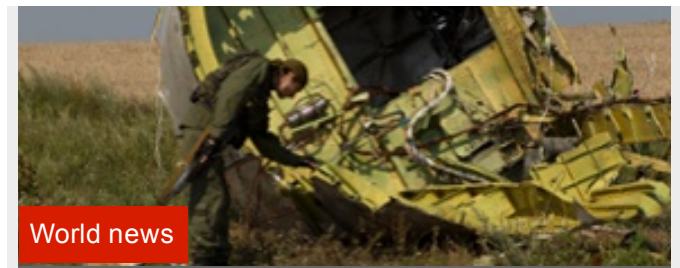
Official Site. Online Programs. Flexible Scheduling. Get Info.
phoenix.edu

Official Site ITT Tech

130 Locations & Online Programs Official ITT Tech Site. Get Info!
www.itt-tech.edu

RN to BSN Online Option

3 Semesters & Entirely Online. Affordable, Convenient & Respected!
www.chamberlain.edu



World news

MH17: Rebels likely shot down plane 'by mistake' – live updates



Comment is free

Thomas the Tank Engine had to shut the hell up to save children everywhere



World news

MH17: US intelligence says Russia 'created conditions' for plane disaster

[License/buy our content](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Terms of service](#) | [US advertising](#) | [A - Z index](#) | [About us](#)

© 2014 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.