



## Parenting and Caring.

17.

a) Two rights of children include:

1. The right to an education

2. The right not to be abused or mistreated by a parent or carer.

These contribute to children's well-being: an education provides intellectual stimulation as well as social interaction with others. These factors contribute to a child's well-being. An education will also help a child to meet its needs in the future, by helping them get a job.

If a child is abused or mistreated in any way, then their needs are not being met.

Whether physically or emotionally, a child's well-being centres on them having their physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual needs met. Abuse prevents one or more of these needs from being met.

Therefore, these ~~two~~ rights contribute to a child's well-being.



b) Childcare services support individuals in their role as parents ~~are~~ and carers. These services include long-day care, occasional care and before and after school care.

Long-day care may be helpful for parents and carers who have ~~the~~ children under school age. If the parent or carer has to work, this is a way of supporting the parent. It is also an opportunity for the child to socialise and be made aware of social norms. This helps the individuals to balance their role as a parent or carer, with their role of wage earner.

Occasional care centres are available for parents and carers anytime, but are especially useful when the individual faces unexpected circumstances. e.g. The death of a <sup>grand-parent</sup> ~~parent~~ in a car accident. The child can go to an occasional care centre during the day, while the parent/carer attends the funeral. These centres provide



support for parents / carers particularly in emergency situations.

School-age children whose parents work can go to before ~~and~~ after school care. This service provides parents / carers support as they try to manage the multiple role expectations which are placed on them.

Therefore, childcare services, provide individuals with support in their roles as parents and carers. They provide physical assistance and may also provide advice on how best to look after dependant individuals.

c) Step-parenting is a form of social parenting.

A social parent is one whose not biologically related to the child. A step-parent is a type of 'substitute' parent, who takes on the role of a mother / father who does not live with the family, whether by death or divorce.

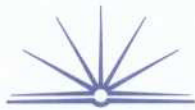
There are a range of factors which influence



parenting and caring relationships within this family situation.

The age of the children may influence relationships within this family situation. Older children, especially teenagers, may find it hard to come to terms with a new parental figure in their lives; one which sets limits for the child. Strain may occur within the, already fragile relationship between step-parent/ teenager - when the teenager is prevented from doing something they are usually allowed to do. Arguments over curfews, friends, extracurricular activities etc. will all negatively influence the new parenting relationship.

Another factor, such as ~~if~~ the step-parent also bringing their children into the family will add strain to parenting and caring relationships. Privileges a child may have had, may have to be shared by the new children. Or step-parents often want to be liked by their new step-children so they give all their attention to them, neglecting their



own children in the process. This causes problems between the biological parent and their child, as well as causing friction between the children themselves.

The step-parent may also bring with them a different style of parenting, to which the children are unaccustomed. Children who are used to an authoritative style of parenting may take an instant dislike to a step-parent who uses an authoritarian style of parenting.

It is evident that many factors influence parenting and caring relationships in families which include a step-parent, especially if there are also step-children. Factors such as the age of the children, the addition of step-children and ~~a~~ different parenting styles may all add strain to parenting and caring relationships.