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A family has a great influence on children' s development. But factors outside the home play a bigger part in children' s life. Do you agree or disagree?

It is argued the family provides important **role models** for developing children. Others believe external social elements influence children much more. I agree with the former, though social factors also have significant effects.

To begin with, a child' s **socialisation** begins at home **at his mother' s knee**. It is there a child learns right from wrong, plus manners and other standards of behaviour, such as how to speak nicely. Moreover, proof of the family' s importance can be seen in the differences between some children. For example, children growing up in a **dysfunctional** home may have problems in later life, whilst those brought up in a warm and loving environment may **end up** more confident and secure in adulthood. Consequently, the role of the family cannot be understated in the **bringing up** of a child.

Nevertheless, the role of external social factors such as the Internet, TV, and friends cannot be overlooked. Besides, children these days have access to these much more than they used to in the past, and are heavily influenced by social media trends and celebrity lifestyles. For instance, dangerous online challenges or cyber bullying to the extent that children have been driven to take their own lives. Furthermore, the Internet, **in the main**, is not a child friendly space and parental control of **screen time** has to be enforced to protect children who are easily led away from **the straight and narrow**.

To conclude, I agree the family is the main **determiner** of how a child develops. But social factors also play a part. Nevertheless, a supportive family keeping their child **on the right track** is a major factor.

264 words

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Vocabulary

role model (idiom) An individual whose behaviour serves as an exemplar to others.

"If the teacher was a 'role model' parents were obviously unaware of it."

socialisation (noun) the adoption of the behaviour patterns of the surrounding culture;

"the socialization of children to the norms of their culture"

at (one's) mother's knee (idiom) From one's mother, typically when one was a child.

I learned how to bake at my mother's knee when I was just a girl.

dysfunctional (noun) Failure to achieve or sustain a behavioural norm or expected condition, as in a social relationship.

end up (idiom) To reach some conclusion, state, or situation due to a particular course of action.

Thanks to that traffic jam, I ended up being late to the meeting.

Sara has always loved to read so I'm not surprised that she ended up an English major.

I really think that you and your high school sweetheart will end up together.

bringing up (idiom) To care for a child or animal from a young age; to raise a child or animal. A noun can be used between "bring" and "up" or after "up."

Who will bring up my children if something happens to me?

I brought my now-elderly cat up from a kitten.

in the main (idiom) Generally; for the most part.

In the main, my employees work hard. There are just a few who give me headaches every once in a while.

It's a good book, in the main. A few scenes seem unfinished, though.

screen time - The amount of time a person spends in front of a "screen" , including TV, computers and video games.

the straight and narrow (idiom) A morally upright way of life.

I need to stay on the straight and narrow so I don't get arrested again.

determiner (noun) a person or thing that determines

on the right track (idiom) Progressing in a way that is likely to succeed.

I think we're really on the right track with this new environmental initiative.

After all of those failed experiments, our team is finally on the right track now.

范文解析：

这是一篇典型的观点型大作文，话题为教育类话题。这篇范文，考官使用了双边的写作结构，即对于双方观点都进行了论述。在完成这样一篇双边类型的文章时，作者首先在首段通过改写的方法呈现出文章主题，其次在首段就表达了自己的观点：尽管社会因素也会对儿童有影响，但是父母的教育对于儿童的发展也起到了重要的作用。在主体段第一段，作者针对父母对于儿童的影响做出了论述，并且作者使用了观点+解释+举例的论证结构来完成的整个主体段。在第二主体段中，作者论证了社会，媒体等外界因素对于儿童的影响，并同时表达了父母在面对这些外界因素的影响时也可以加以干预。最后结尾段，作者重申了自己的观点。文章中所使用的这些论点，各位考生都是可以用作参考学习的，同时文章中使用的写作结构在启德 2019 版雅思新教材 I 段第六、七课都有详细地讲解，关于教育类的写作思路以及素材也会有详细的介绍，欢迎大家来启德上课。