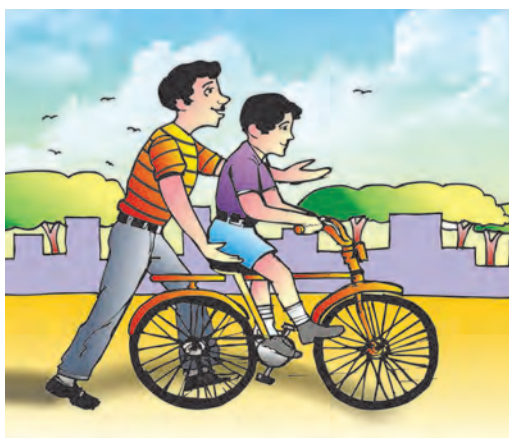


17. My Upbringing



Can you tell ?

- What do you see in these pictures?
- What are the kids in the pictures learning from the grown-ups?

We learn many different things while we are growing up. They lead to the development of certain habits, likes and dislikes. They shape our views and thoughts. This is what is known as our upbringing.

You must have seen photographs of your childhood. You began to crawl. You learnt how to walk and how to talk. And apart from this, you learnt many more things – how to brush your teeth, how to bathe, how to eat without spilling, how to behave with people older than you. You learnt many more things besides these basic ones. How to fill your schoolbag, how to ride a bicycle, how to play a cell phone game, when to feed the cattle, how to buy groceries, how to behave with strangers. The list can go on and on.

How did you learn all these things? Who taught you all these things?

You must have learnt many of these things from your parents and relatives. Holding our hands, our parents teach us to walk. They teach us how to behave and how to talk to others. When we make mistakes, they show us how to correct them. They want us to become good people.



Do you know ?

How does a lion cub learn how to hunt?

A lion cub is not able to hunt as soon as it is born. It is taught how to hunt by its mother and other lionesses in the pride. These cubs are quite helpless for about the first two weeks. They do not even open their eyes. Therefore, their mother keeps them hidden away from others. When the cubs are about eight weeks of age, they are introduced to the other members of the pride. All the lionesses take care of the cubs. A cub is pampered by all of them until it is three months old. Then, it begins to learn how to hunt. It takes two to three years for a cub to become adept at hunting.

Our loved ones, too, try hard to see that we develop good habits. Our close relatives like our grandparents, uncles and aunts also have great affection for us. We learn many things from them, too. People who are close to us, teach us how to carry out our own tasks ourselves. They appreciate it when we can do all these things properly. They commend us saying that we have grown up.



Do you know ?

Have you heard the names Hali Raghunath Baraf or Sameep Anil Pandit? Hali is a girl from Shahapur taluka in Thane district. Hali rescued her older sister from a leopard. Sameep rescued buffaloes tied in a cowshed from a fire. For these brave acts, the two were felicitated with the National Bravery Award by the Prime Minister of India in 2013.



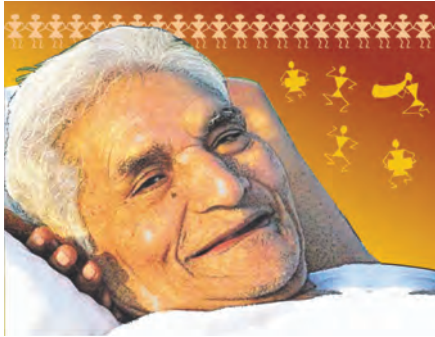
Can you tell ?

What did you learn from your parents and relatives? Make a list. How did you learn these things? Think about it.



Do you know ?

Baba Amte spent his entire life in social service. His lifelong goal was to serve people suffering from leprosy and also other handicapped people, and to help them stand on their own feet. In this mission, he was helped



Baba Amte

immensely by his wife, Sadhanatai. His work is being carried on by his sons and his daughters-in-law. Now, even the third generation of the Amte family is carrying on this mission. This example of social service carried on relentlessly by three generations of a family is really inspiring.

Everything that we learn is not ‘taught’ to us by somebody. We pick up many things through observation and through exposure. How do our friends speak? What clothes do they wear? What games do they play? How do they study? We pick up many of these things unconsciously. Many times, we also begin to behave like our friends.

These parents have come for a parent-teacher meeting at school. See what they say to each other!

Earlier, Renuka never ate her vegetables. Now that she has started going to school, she eats everything without a fuss.

Ever since Zoya, Shilpa and Gail have become friends, they ride their bicycles together every evening. I'm happy that they all get enough exercise.

Ever since Prathamesh has become friends with Salman and Boman, he has started taking a lot of interest in maths.





Can you tell ?

- What do you like about your friends? What do you not like?
- What would you like to learn from your friends?

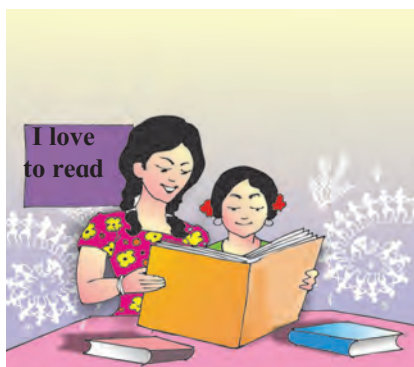
We are influenced by other people around us just as we are influenced by our friends. We meet our neighbours every day for some reason or other. We observe their ways of behaving, speech and eating habits from up close. This, too, has an influence on our upbringing. If people from another place happen to be our neighbours, we naturally get to know about their food and festivals which may be different from ours. This is how we become familiar with diversity.

Many of our neighbours know us from our childhood. They, too, feel affectionate towards us. We learn some good habits from our neighbours, too. Our neighbours also influence our upbringing.



Pratap:
This is my neighbour.
He likes to go for
walks every morning.
I call him Ajoba.
Sometimes,
I go to the hill with
him.

Heena:
This is my neighbour. She
is very old. Even then, she
sweeps her front yard
every day without fail.
She does her own work
herself. Because of her,
I realized that we all
must be self-reliant.



Supriya:
Didi living next to us
loves to read. She often
gives me nice
storybooks to read.



- Like Pratap, Heena and Supriya, have you learnt anything from your neighbours? Write about it in your notebook.



What we have learnt –

- The many things we learn as we grow up, together make our upbringing.
- Our parents and close relatives play an important part in our upbringing.
- We also learn many things from our friends and neighbours.
- We learn from the conscious efforts taken to make us good people.
- We also learn through observation and exposure.



Exercises

(A) Fill in the blanks.

1. Our loved ones try hard to see that we develop habits.
2. Our neighbours also influence our

(B) Answer in one sentence.

1. How do we develop certain likes and dislikes?
2. How do we learn about diversity?

(C) Guess who?

1. climbs the hill with the Ajoba next door.
2. Supriya loves to read because of her
3. The lady next door taught about self-reliance.



Activities

- Find other pictures and stories about girls and boys who have won a Bravery Award.
- Make a list of the new things that your friends have learnt during the vacation.
