**Parenting – Roles are equal**

Roles are becoming more equal in parenting within the family; this is supported by Wilmott and Young’s study on roles in the family. The conjugal roles have become increasingly more symmetrical especially with men taking on nurturing roles and women taking on economic roles.

**Wilmott and young (1937)**

* Willmott and Young argue the family has become more ‘symmetrical’ with husband and wife sharing chores.
* Men and women may take on separate roles but there is greater equality between the two.
* The preindustrial family work as a team.

**Dex and Ward (2007)**

* 78% of fathers actively play with their children, which is an increase of responsibility of the children in the family.
* In 2007 they found relatively high levels of involvement with responsibility of 3 year olds from fathers which therefore shows men taking on the harder responsibilities within parenting in the family.

**Thompson (2005)**

* 80% of the fathers say they would be happy to stay at home to look after their children, this is evidence of how the conjugal roles are becoming more equal, and men are keen on the idea of taking on more nurturing roles.

**Dermott(2003)**

* There is a rise of intimate fatherhood with an attempt to develop more family balance and involvement within bringing up children; this was researched through interviews with 25 fathers with at least 1 child at primary school.