**The Conjugal role debate**

**‘Parenting roles are becoming more equal’**

Brown, Vincent and Ball in in 2011 found that of 70 families they studied, in only three of them was the father the main carer.

* Most were ‘background fathers’ – primary responsibility to partner rather than child
* Women’s role in ‘intensive mothering’ were supported by media stereotypes

Thompson (2005)

* Only 391 of the teachers surveyed felt that the breadwinner role was the most important aspect of fatherhood
* 80% of fathers surveyed said that they would be happy to stay at home and look after the kids

Dex and Ward 2007

* Relatively high levels of involvement with responsibility for 3 year olds

Equal Parenting Alliance

* UK political party formed in 2006
* Their aim is to promote a system of family justice system in the UK that puts the needs of children first
* This organisation shows that equality is on the horizon.

Technology

* Due to the advance of technology, parenting roles are becoming more equal, for example, products such as milk supplements and the idea women can preserve their own breast milk allows men to stay at home and carry out the same tasks as they are not dependant on women for baby food.

Dermott – Intimate fatherhood

* There’s a shift between men wanting to be exclusively breadwinners and there is a rise of the intimate fatherhood, so they are tempting to develop more efficient work and family balance and greater involvement with their kids – it was based on 25 semi structured interviews with fathers with at least one child of the primary school age.