

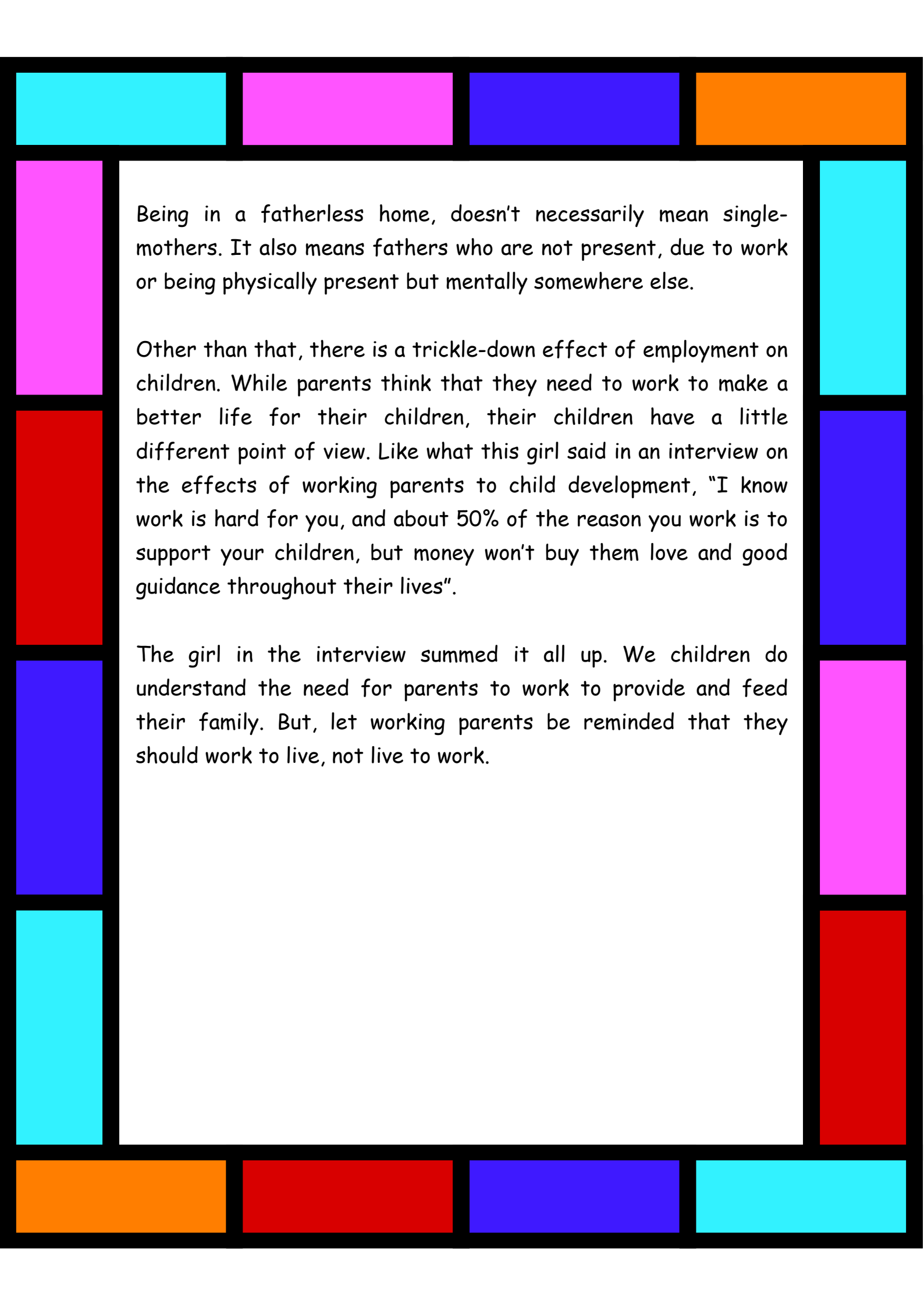
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6B (12)

LONG WORKING HOURS

If you are living in Hong Kong, then you would notice that Hong Kong is a very busy and fast paced city. Everybody appears to be rushing to work and school every day and time seems to fly. But with our busy schedules and long working hours, where does quality family time fit in?

In Hong Kong, most people work for more than 12 hours a day and sometimes they even go overtime without any extra pay. That is why most families, hire domestic helpers to help them take care of their children at home. This seems to be a good solution, but how does it affect the children? And some families won't even bother hiring a helper, to save up more money. This then, leads to child negligence.

With the parents absent, the child will lack the parental love that they yearn for, that only their parents can give them. The relationship worsens and with the lack of parental guidance or monitoring, children are more prone to accidents and they will lack social skills. Also, when the mental development of a child is not guided by parents, they are more prone to committing crimes and having difficulties in life. From statistics on fatherless homes, 85% of youths sitting in prisons grew up with fathers being absent and 65% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.



Being in a fatherless home, doesn't necessarily mean single-mothers. It also means fathers who are not present, due to work or being physically present but mentally somewhere else.

Other than that, there is a trickle-down effect of employment on children. While parents think that they need to work to make a better life for their children, their children have a little different point of view. Like what this girl said in an interview on the effects of working parents to child development, "I know work is hard for you, and about 50% of the reason you work is to support your children, but money won't buy them love and good guidance throughout their lives".

The girl in the interview summed it all up. We children do understand the need for parents to work to provide and feed their family. But, let working parents be reminded that they should work to live, not live to work.