



請注意：中文文字内容只提供簡體版

丹麦是全球世界生育率最低的国家之一。现在首都哥本哈根附近的一些托儿所主动提出要提供免费服务帮助照看幼儿，希望借此鼓励育龄父母再多生几胎。BBC记者 **Malcolm Brabant** 有以下报道：

This is Malcolm Brabant in Denmark, where a group of **nursery** workers have made the children's parents an offer that's **hard to refuse**: 'we'll **look after** your children for an extra two hours for free, so that you can go to bed and make more babies.' This **once-off** service is designed to draw attention to the **dwindling** number of births and to do something about it.

In terms of birth rate, Denmark **languishes** at number 185 out of 221 countries in the world. If the increasingly older population continues to expand, Denmark will not be able to support **pensioners** and others dependent on state benefits.

The nurseries offering free **babysitting** are in the district of North Fyn, to the west of Copenhagen, where 200 fewer babies were born last year. Dorthe Nyman, the head of the Grasshopper nursery described it as a serious problem.

Fifty percent of parents have accepted their offer, but there'll be no time for a romantic dinner and slow **seduction** because couples only have two hours to perform **in the national interest**. Ms Nyman said if their offer was successful, they'd be happy to do it all over again.

Questions

1. How many free hours are offered to parents?
2. True or false: The offer looks so attractive that most people would probably take it.
3. Why is Denmark so worried about the continuing low birth rate?
4. True or false: Parents are encouraged to make more babies for themselves.

Vocabulary and definitions

nursery	所儿所, 幼儿园
hard to refuse	很难拒绝
look after	照顾
once-off	一次性的
dwindling	下降
languishes	衰弱无力
pensioners	退休领养老金的人
babysitting	照看孩子
seduction	性诱惑
in the national interest	为国家的利益

Answers to the questions

1. How many free hours are offered to parents?

Answer: *Two.*

2. True or false: The offer looks so attractive that most people would probably take it.

Answer: *True. It's an offer that is hard to refuse.*

3. Why is Denmark so worried about the continuing low birth rate?

Answer: *Because the country will not be able to support pensioners.*

4. True or false: Parents are encouraged to make more babies for themselves.

Answer: *False. They are doing it in the national interest.*