Facebook boss to take paternity leave

25th November, 2015

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is planning to take two months of paternity leave following the birth of his daughter. This sends a strong message to all would-be fathers to get involved in the earliest stages of their newborn's life. Zuckerberg is only taking half of the time Facebook grants to male employees for paternity leave. Nevertheless, it sets a positive example to men worldwide on the responsibilities of fatherhood. The Facebook CEO wrote on his own Facebook page: "This is a very personal decision. Studies show that when working parents take time to be with their newborns, outcomes are better for the children and families." He added: "We're excited to start this next stage in our lives."

Over the past few decades, more and more companies have been giving men fully paid paternity leave. However, many men appear somewhat reluctant to take advantage of this benefit. Technology companies are often in the forefront of looking after employees, but even their male employees have been hesitant to utilise the perk. Many male workers prefer to continue working out of fear of falling behind on projects or missing out on promotions. Just 2 per cent of businesses in the UK reported a significant increase in the amount of paternity leave taken recently. Chris Parke, an employment specialist from London, offered some advice for men who were unsure about taking paternity leave: "Be courageous," he said.

Sources: *Chosun.com / BabyCenter.com / FinancialTimes*

Writing

All companies should provide fully paid paternity leave of a year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

planning / birth / would-be fathers / employees / positive example / personal / decision / decades / reluctant / hesitant / falling behind / projects / specialist / courageous

True / False

a) Facebook's CEO took two months off as paternity leave. T / F

b) Facebook's CEO has four months of leave but is only taking two. T / F

c) Facebook took the decision for the CEO to take paternity leave. T / F

d) The CEO said he would make a study to show better outcomes. T / F

e) Companies are giving less paternity leave nowadays. T / F

f) Many men seem not to want to take paternity leave. T / F

g) Many men worry about not being promoted because of paternity leave. T / F

h) A specialist advised men to be courageous and take paternity leave. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	sends	a.	a little
2	grants	b.	conveys
3.	responsibilities	c.	expert
4.	personal	d.	indecisive
5.	stage	e.	gives
6.	appear	f.	private
7.	somewhat	g.	phase
8.	hesitant	h.	brave
9.	specialist	i.	duties
10.	courageous	j.	seem

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of the idea of paternity leave?

b) What do you think about what you read?

c) Why doesn't Mark Zuckerberg take his full 4 months of paternity leave?

d) What kind of message is Mark Zuckerberg sending?

e) How important is it for men to take paternity leave?

f) How much more important is maternity leave?

g) What should be the length of paternity leave?

h) Should paternity leave be compulsory for all new fathers?

Phrase Match

1.	following the birth	a.	be fathers to get involved
2	would-	b.	paid paternity leave
3.	the earliest stages of	c.	behind on projects
4.	it sets a	d.	of his daughter
5.	start this next	e.	specialist
6.	Over the past	f.	positive example
7.	fully	g.	advantage of this benefit
8.	reluctant to take	h.	stage in our lives
9.	out of fear of falling	i.	few decades
10.	an employment	j.	their newborn's life

Discussion – Student B

a) Should people like soldiers and doctors get paternity leave?

b) Should the leader of a country get paternity leave?

c) Why are men reluctant to take paternity leave?

d) What kind of paternity leave is there in your country?

e) What should the man do to help while on paternity leave?

f) Are there disadvantages to paternity leave?

g) Do you need to be 'courageous' to take paternity leave?

h) What would you like to ask Mark Zuckerberg?

Spelling

1. wlgoinlof the birth of his daughter

2. get ovlidven

3. male eyeespmlo

4. the pbeiirtnslseosii of fatherhood

5. a very personal dnceisoi

6. ocsetuom are better for the children

7. Over the past few esadcde

8. many men appear somewhat lnatretuc

9. in the rorfnftoe of looking after employees

10. iahsttne to utilise the perk

11. a iaftnicngis increase

12. an employment tsielcipas

Role Play

Role A – Bath time
You think bath time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hugs, feeding time or baby's first words.

Role B – Hugs
You think hugs are the best things about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): bath time, feeding time or baby's first words.

Role C – Feeding time
You think feeding time is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hugs, bath time or baby's first words.

Role D – Baby's first words
You think a baby's first words is the best thing about babies. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): hugs, feeding time or bath time.

Speaking – Babies

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about babies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- feeding time
- sleeping time
- crawling
- first words
- bath time
- smiles
- hugs
- clothes

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. e	3. i	4. f	5. g
6. j	7. a	8. d	9. c	10. h

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c F	d F	e F	f T	g T	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.