

# Double take...

TV's favourite couple join **woman** every week

## Should children be am

### Eamonn says


Seven-year-olds are set to receive careers advice, under a new scheme to encourage them to develop aspirations early in life. Primary schools will offer career-related learning, as well as letting the children experience university life and the work place.

What a good idea. Because, left unchecked, I'll tell you what youngsters think about - what's on telly, what's for dinner, how can I marry a footballer or be a footballer, and if all else fails, how do I get on *The X Factor*?

They're celebrity-obsessed, as if that's the only thing that could possibly make them happy. All around them are images in newspapers and magazines, on TV and in the movies that say: 'This is where it's at.' The dream of celebrity is like gorging on junk food - full of empty calories and empty promises.

I knew what I wanted to be by the time I was 10. Many obstacles stood in my way and few people believed in me, but I became a television reporter by the age of 20 and the rest followed from there. So I'm the sort of person who gets frustrated by teenagers and university students who haven't a clue what they want to do next.

Putting the idea into children's minds from an early age that there are other dreams to follow, other skills to acquire, and other gifts to give is not only a good thing - it's the right thing.



Eamonn wanted to be a TV reporter from the age of 10 - he thinks all kids should have a dream

with Ruth & Eamonn  
for a lively debate on the hottest issues...



bitious?



Ruth wanted to be a nurse at seven but reckons the patients had a lucky escape

**Ruth says** In my primary class when I was seven, most of the girls wanted to be ballerinas or airhostesses, while one dreamed of becoming Prime Minister. The boys wanted to be the usual suspects – firemen, astronauts, footballers. Me? I planned a glittering career as a nurse! To my knowledge, none of the girls went on to dance for the Royal Ballet, fly the world or reign supreme at No.10. And apart from one actual fireman, the boys didn't realise their childhood 'what do you want to be when you grow up' dreams, either. That's because we were seven years old! What child is really going to know what

career they want to follow when they're that young? I think it's just ridiculous offering kids career advice at that age. They should be enjoying their childhood, not worrying about the future.

The fast pace of modern life means kids grow up far too quickly anyway – surely it's enough trying to crack their six times tables without deciding what university they'll apply to?

I do worry that many teenagers are clueless about work or they just want to be 'famous,' so I'm all for career advice – when they're 13, not seven. Eamonn's lucky he had a dream, followed it and succeeded. My career as a nurse? Let's just say the patients had a lucky escape!

## We're both chubby chasers

**Ruth** Good news for all us curvy women – in a recent survey, 89 per cent of men said we're much better in bed than those skinny size zero types.

**Eamonn** Well, that makes sense, doesn't it? Who wants to roll around with someone whose body feels like a bag of bones? Give me curvaceous every time.

**Ruth** And the feeling's mutual, apparently. In the same survey women said they prefer the 'heavier' man, because chubbier partners tend to try harder between the sheets.

**Eamonn** Well, we're a match made in heaven then, aren't we, darling?

**Ruth** Suppose we are... shame we're always too tired to put the theory into practice!



Nigella, the queen of curve