

Absent daddy presents gifts

Busy parents, including celebs like Bobby Deol, make up to their kids by splurging on expensive toys

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BOLLYWOOD actor Bobby Deol recently admitted to making up for time not spent with his kids by shopping for them. As far as busy celebrity dads are concerned, expensive gifts and exotic holidays seem to be a way of making up.



LAVISH PAPA: Indrajit Lankesh

It's pretty much the same down south. Kannada film star Upendra lives here, but since he is

They also tend to throw more tantrums because they understand that this is the only way they can grab attention and get what they want."

But does buying things make up for quality time? "No, it doesn't," admits film director Indrajit Lankesh. "I do buy expensive gifts for my son, but only if I feel they will help his creative growth. But with a career like mine, there is no other alternative. I do try and take a break between directing films to spend some time with



BUSY POP: Upendra

GIFTING INSTINCT

away from home most of the time, wife Priyanka and son Ayush spend more time in Mumbai which

is Priyanka's home town. "They are comfortable in Mumbai and I visit them once every 15 to 20 days. And when I do go, Ayush can be sure of receiving a lot of gifts," he says.

While businessman Zahed Mehmood makes it a point to spend a lot of time with his children, he admits that his brother Farook Mehmood does tend to splurge on his children. "My brother travels a lot on work and he does make up by buying expensive gifts for his teenagers. But I have found that material gifts are not the same as spending quality time with the children," he says.

It's a widespread trend among busy parents with deep pockets. Says child counsellor Meera Ravi, "Parents who are not able to spend time with their children tend to compensate this with material gifts. They feel they can fill the emotional vacuum with games and toys. This could also be the reason why today's children are becoming increasingly materialistic. Children are being made to feel it's alright if their parents are not available as long as they get lots of gifts.

my son. And the difference is evident. During my break, we do things together; play, travel, watch movies and I even spend time with my son's friends. That's what really builds a bond and I wish I could do it more often," he says.



FOND DADDY: Bobby Deol