



EMPATHIC PARENTING

Journal of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Volume 9

Issue 3

Summer 1986

\$2.50



Nobody knows the number of those afflicted. But awareness is growing among mental-health experts that the youngster deprived of attention and affection may be even more damaged than one who is battered.

see page 3



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When Love and Joy are Most Alive — and Most Vulnerable

...I believe that all the hates and furies in the world are cries of pain at the thwarting of love.

And the fulfilling of love is the meaning of joy. "The spiritual life," says the Doctor, "is a life of creative joy." It's the best definition I have heard and evokes the secret knowledge I harbored in childhood and now recognize as innate in all children.

The time when love and joy are most alive, and most vulnerable, is in childhood. And that is how my whole view of love comes down to the children. I believe that when we can stand firmly enough in our Selfhood to love the children — to find out how to love the children — realistically, practically, knowledgeably — every crime, every hate, every cruelty will vanish from the earth.

*"Quoted from SPIRIT RIVER TO ANGELS' ROOST © 1977
Patricia Joudry published by Tundra Books of Montreal"*

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EMPATHIC PARENTING/Summer 1986



EMPATHIC PARENTING

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Letters

JOURNAL A USEFUL RESOURCE

Dear Dr. Barker:

I just came across your quarterly "Empathic Parenting" and I am impressed. I teach a Man In Society course to Grade 11 and a Grade 13 course on the Family (Canadian Family In Perspective). I look forward to receiving your Journal and using it as a resource. If you have back issues or other material available, I would appreciate any copies you could supply. My senior course is seminar oriented and I like to get as much material as possible into the hands of the students.

Sincerely,
Bevan Loughheed
Owen Sound, Ont.

as I think it would be of interest to your readers.

I believe that by operating a small home business, mothers can eliminate the need to have other people look after their children but still bring in needed income.

I applaud your efforts toward strengthening family life by means of your magazine which I have been aware of for many years. My husband and I were in touch with you when we published "Natural Life Magazine" in the 70's and I have continued to read it as national co-ordinator of the Canadian Alliance of Home Schoolers (brochures enclosed).

Thank you for any help you can give to helping women become aware of the Home Businesswomen's Network.

Sincerely,
Wendy Priesnitz
network co-ordinator
195 Markville Rd.
Unionville, Ont. L3R 4V3

ALICE MILLER'S WORD SPREADS

Dear Sirs and Ladies:

Enclosed is a cheque and order blank for membership in "Empathic Parenting". A patient of mine brought in a copy of the Journal to show me and I was very impressed by your work aims and the quality and aptness of the reprints — especially since I had recommended Alice Miller's work to that patient a few weeks before.

So keep it up, you can count on my support.

Yours sincerely,
Jan Bauer
Analyste Jungienne Dipl.
Montreal, P.Q.

True affection
is a body of enigmas,
mysteries and riddles,
wherein two so become one
that they both
become two.

Thomas Browne

HOME AND SCHOOL AND BUSINESS

Dear Dr. Barker:

Enclosed you will find a news release and brochure about a national network for women who operate businesses out of their home. I hope that you can mention it in your magazine,

Emotional Child Abuse: The Invisible Plague

by Susan Jacoby

The “four Ds” of emotional abuse: Deprivation, Distancing, Depreciation and Domination.

As I was leaving my gym one morning, I overheard a mother berating her daughter for refusing to put her face in the water during a toddlers' swim class. “You're such a little coward,” she told the sobbing child — who could not have been more than three years old. “It's the same every week. You always make your daddy and me ashamed. Sometimes I can't believe you're really my daughter.”

Although my stomach churned with rage on the child's behalf, I said nothing. After all, I rationalized, the mother would just tell me to mind my own business. But I had no doubt that what I had witnessed was in many ways as bad as a brutal beating. It was emotional child abuse.

“The bruises don't show on the outside, so there are no statistics on how many children are victims,” says Dr. Elizabeth Watkins, chief of pediatric primary care at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Centre in New York City. “But anyone who works with children knows that the problem is widespread.”

University of Minnesota psychologist Byron Egeland, who has conducted extensive studies on parenting and early-childhood development, says the effects of emotional child abuse may be at least as devastating as those of physical abuse. Research conducted by Egeland and his colleagues suggests that emotionally abused children suffer an even greater decline in mental and psychological development as they grow older than do physically abused children.

This is because, according to authorities on child development, emotional abuse involves

nothing less than the systematic destruction of a child's self-esteem. The key word is *systematic*.

The mother I overheard used words that indicated a sad pattern: “It's the same every week. You always make your daddy and me ashamed...I can't believe you're really my daughter.” These weren't simply the remarks of a harassed mother having a bad day; they were those of a woman who made a habit of attacking her toddler.

Emotional abusers are prompted not by children's misbehaviour, but by their own psychological problems. Whether abusive parents come from low-income or affluent families, they are usually people who received inadequate love and nurturing from their own parents.

Nearly all are unable to see that a child's behaviour may not be related to anything the parent has done or failed to do. An abusive parent may feel, for instance, that an infant is crying not as an expression of hunger or fear, but because the baby is “bad” or “out to get me”.

Dr. Jay Lefer, a New York psychiatrist and former editor of the newsletter for the Society of Adolescent Psychiatry, refers to the “four Ds” of emotional abuse: deprivation, distancing, depreciation and domination. Abusive parents may use one or all of the four Ds to play out their own psychological conflicts and avoid facing up to the real pressures of child-rearing.

Special thanks to Michael Quesnelle for drawing this article to the attention of the editor. Reprinted with permission from the February 1985 Reader's Digest. Courtesy GLAMOUR. Copyright © 1984 by The Conde Nast Publications Inc.

Emotional abusers are prompted not by children's misbehaviour, but by their own psychological problems.

DEPRIVATION AND DISTANCING

When five-year-old Sally broke her arm in a playground accident, her kindergarten teacher didn't realize the child was hurt until she found her weeping silently in a corner. At the hospital, where the teacher met Sally's mother, the little girl didn't turn to her mother for comfort. Instead, she went off quietly with a nurse and didn't seem to notice when her mother ignored the nurse's invitation to accompany them. "Rather than put her arms around her child, the first thing the mother did was look for a coffee machine," said the teacher. "I could see why Sally didn't tell me she was hurt. She was accustomed to being ignored."

Psychologically unavailable parents rarely cuddle a crying baby or express much interest in the infant's development. As a result, their babies fail to develop what psychologists call a secure attachment to their parents. When securely attached children need reassurance, they know they can get it from their parents — and, eventually, from other adults who care for them. "A physically abused child will avoid the caretaker for fear of being hit," says psychologist Egeland. "An emotionally abused child does the same thing to avoid the disappointment of not being accepted."

"Unavailability is shattering because a child doesn't get any of the usual emotional rewards for curiosity, growth and accomplishment," continues Egeland. "Think of a normal parent's reaction when a child takes a first step: it's a celebration, a reason for praise and excitement. But in a home where emotional unavailability is the standard, the milestone is ignored. If the parent notices at all, it's with irritation. After all, a child who can walk will only demand closer supervision and attention."

DEPRECIATION

In some families, parents "team up" in depreciating a child, using a steady stream of verbal abuse that discounts the child's achievements and blows out of proportion every sign of misbehavior; in other families, one parent is the active abuser and one is a silent partner.

Words like "always" and "never" — implying that a child invariably fails to live up to a parent's expectations — are keys to distinguishing a consistently abusive parent from one who criticizes occasionally in anger or frustration.

Sara, a 26-year-old computer programmer who says she has never enjoyed a satisfying relationship with a man, grew up with a father who constantly undermined her self-esteem. "He had a chant," she recalls, her voice quavering, "that he used to repeat at least a dozen times a day: 'Pimples and fat, pimples and fat, no boy will ever be seen with that.' To this day I find it almost impossible to believe it when a man gives me a compliment. I still hear my father's voice."

In ambitious middle-class families, one of the most common forms of emotional abuse is the denigration of any achievement that falls short of perfection, such as when a child is punished for bringing home a B instead of an A. Jeree Pawl, director of the Infant-Parent Program at San Francisco General Hospital, observes that "perfectionist" parents may display irrational expectations. "They have completely unrealistic ideas about how long an infant or toddler should wait to be toilet-trained, or be expected to be quiet," she notes. "So normal behaviour is seen as a deficiency on the part of the child, and a failure on the part of the parent."

Whether abusive parents come from low-income or affluent families, they are usually people who received inadequate love and nurturing from their own parents.



Verbal abuse that discounts the child's achievements and blows out of proportion every sign of misbehaviour.

On a recent cross-country flight I saw an example of this type of behaviour when I sat across the aisle from a young couple travelling with a year-old baby. The cabin service was slower than usual, and the flight attendant had failed to warm up the baby's bottle in time for his feeding.

The baby, predictably, started to cry — and the father refused either to hold him while the mother went to find the stewardess, or to look for the bottle himself. "That kid can't wait five seconds for anything," the father said (apparently oblivious to the loud complaints of adult passengers about the lateness of their dinners). "If you think, I'm going to bother the stewardess because that kid is spoiled rotten, you're crazy. There's something really wrong with him."

DOMINATION

Four-year-old Tommy was recovering from a routine tonsillectomy in the children's ward of a hospital when the nurses noticed he was unusually withdrawn. He refused to speak to anyone.

When Tommy's pediatrician suggested that his mother discuss her son's behaviour with a staff psychologist, she became furious. "I've told him never to talk to anyone — children or adults — if I don't know them," she explained. "I'm not going to spoil his training just because he's in the hospital." Later, the pediatrician learned that Tommy's mother had in fact told the boy he would die if he talked to strangers.

The use of such extreme threats to stifle a child's natural curiosity is a common form of

In ambitious middle-class families, one of the most common forms of emotional abuse is the denigration of any achievement that falls short of perfection, such as when a child is punished for bringing home a B instead of an A.

emotional abuse, according to psychologists and pediatricians. "We're talking about the kind of domination in which a parent tries to take control of a child's every action," says Dr. Watkins. "Instead of putting up a real boundary — like a fence to keep a child from running into the street — a parent creates invisible walls. The child is told that terrible things will happen if he explores and violates the parent's orders."

Dr. Lefer notes that all parents try to dominate their children in certain respects — by setting standards of conduct and trying to instill parental values. "But there's a big difference between domination through education and example and domination through cruelty," he says. "The abusive parent gets his or her way by terrifying the child into following his or her wishes."

For some young adults, the experience of having been emotionally abused as children has made them determined to become good parents themselves. But the problems of many "second-generation" child abusers don't surface until they already have children of their own.

The best hope in such cases, experts say, is therapy that involves every member of the family. "When a child is being emotionally abused," says Dr. Lefer, "the problem cannot be successfully treated in isolation. Once a parent realizes something is wrong, this can open up the whole matter of how the family works. And other family members can be brought into the

therapeutic process."

Looking beyond the immediate family, experts say that emotional child abuse is abetted by the reluctance of outsiders — including friends and relatives — to confront abusive parents.

"Many children who are remorselessly denigrated by their parents think they deserve it," notes psychologist Pawl. "The silence and inactivity of other adults help convince the child that it's true: he really is worthless, evil or a coward."

I asked each of the professionals I interviewed whether I had done the right thing in keeping silent when I overheard the mother calling her child a coward. All felt I should have spoken up and said something like, "Everyone is afraid of some things. It's nothing to be ashamed of."

I asked one psychologist if she thought that a challenge from another adult might not have made the mother treat her child even more harshly. "That's possible," she replied, "but at least the child would have understood that not every adult agrees with her mother. That's important, because we know sometimes children are able to survive abuse if they find someone — a teacher, an aunt or uncle — who makes them feel valuable and worthwhile in spite of what their parents say.

"People shouldn't mind their own business when a child's life is in danger — and that means the heart and mind as well as the body." □

"So normal behaviour is seen as a deficiency on the part of the child, and a failure on the part of the parent."

New Film for High Schools...



Film Funds

Dr. Elliott Barker, president of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children holds the cheque the Society received from the Muttart Foundation in Edmonton,

Alta. The \$8,000 cheque will be used to produce and distribute a film on prevention of cruelty to children.

Preventing cruelty is goal

by Paul Van Raay

The greatest cruelty to children may not necessarily be represented by broken limbs or a bruised eye. Emotional cruelty, the abandonment of a child, the destruction of trust, compassion and self-appreciation in a child, may

be far more severe a form of child abuse than physical pain.

It is the priority of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (CSPCC) to prevent cruelty to children, rather than to

treat child abuse.

"After all," says president of the CSPCC, Dr. Elliott Barker, "in the long run, prevention is the only effective solution to the problem of cruelty to children."

But the goal of the CSPCC (its international headquarters located in Midland), is to create a society in which every child's most sensitive needs are met early in life. It is not an easy goal to achieve, he said. Many types of emotional cruelty are not easily understood. It shows later, often years later, and the damage produced is often not immediately apparent to the victim or others.

To make potential parents aware of how to avoid the possibility of cruelty to children, the CSPCC has been distributing films and video tapes to high school students. Students in Grade 9 or earlier are the ones who need to realize the importance of raising a child properly, said Barker.

A grant from the Muttart Foundation in Edmonton, Alta., in 1983, provided the funds for the Rotary Club of Midland, in conjunction with Maclean Hunter Cable TV, to produce a 30 minute film titled, **The Greatest Cruelty**. The locally produced film takes a look at the effects that improper parenting can have on the child, as well as how parents and parents-to-be can ensure that their child is well-balanced and happy.

Highly recommended by Health and Welfare Canada, the film suggests the greatest cruelty to children is to crush a child's spirit so that he or she cannot give or receive love. The film was widely accepted by Ontario high school psychology and family studies classes. The film was supported in part by funds arising from the McDonald's McHappy Day drive in Midland.

With the knowledge that the CSPCC gained through the production of **The Greatest Cruelty**, Barker believes that he and the volunteers who work with the Society, can release six to seven more films and videotapes. The first tape is in production, and literature regarding the content of the film should be distributed by the end of the next school year.

Barker approached the Muttart Foundation again in March of this year for funds and less than two months after Barker's request the CSPCC received a cheque from the foundation. Most of the films the CSPCC plans to release deal with topical issues such as child spacing and how consumer and material priorities can get in the way of child rearing. The donation by the Muttart Foundation, according to Barker,

is to be used to produce one special film, one which deals with the entire scope of proper parenting.

When asked what the goal of the film will be and what message the CSPCC will try to get across with the film, Barker explained, "If viewing this film were the only parenting preparation a Grade 9 student were to have had, he would recall enough of it to have a significant effect on the way he thinks about and plans for the care of his children."

Since the idea of producing such a film first came into planning, the Society had received donations from over 100 corporations, many of them local. Using these funds the CSPCC purchased the equipment necessary for the production and have begun filming in some of the Midland and Penetanguishene high schools.

Barker believes that with his technical experience, the incorporation of special effects, and good music, the film will be a gripping one that will stick in the student's mind.

Based on response the CSPCC has received from other films they have distributed, including imports from England, Barker expects future films to be popular in Ontario high schools.

When the CSPCC brought the first film from England, titled **The Importance Of Substitute Mothering**, it received over 30,000 requests for the film. The film became available to Canadian schools through a special arrangement between the CSPCC and the Robertsons (a similar society group in England), a grant from the Muttart Foundation and VTR Productions Limited in Toronto.

The idea of showing students the need to prepare for parenting has been around for a while but Barker compares the problem to the pollution issue. Years ago, people did not care or know about pollution, he said, but now it is a well researched issue. With the increase in child care courses, he hopes the same will happen to child care.

Although presently the films that are distributed by and produced by the CSPCC are shown primarily to the senior grades in high schools, Barker believes the film has the most effect on students in Grade 8, before they are capable of child producing.

The prevention of child abuse, in both the mental and physical sense, has a long way to go to become obsolete, but with the efforts and ideas put forth by Barker and the CSPCC, the goal of preventing cruelty to children may not be far off. □

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An Important Canadian Organization...

CCAVE NEWS

Canadians Concerned About Violence in Entertainment
Vol. 4 No. 1 Winter-Spring 1986

This quarterly newsletter is published by Canadians Concerned About Violence in Entertainment, a national consumer organization founded in 1983. It seeks to alert Canadian citizens to the facts of criminal violence, research which shows that the epidemic increase in real violence is related to entertainment violence as are other harmful effects, and to action which can be taken to improve the situation. We see the problem of entertainment violence as a community mental health concern. CCAVE is one of ten national organizations which have formed the International Coalition Against Violent Entertainment located in Washington, D.C. to share information on the issue.

Membership is open to both organizations and individuals. Currently, we have members in every province. The regular annual membership fee is \$10, which covers the cost of producing and distributing our newsletters. Supporting memberships at \$25 provide funds to expand the

educational work of the organization. New members are needed if we are to accomplish our goal of preventative mental health education. We see this approach as an alternative to censorship.

Members receive copies of the NCTV News, published by our American sister organization, the National Coalition on Television Violence. The CCAVE News supplements information in the NCTV News, and brings information about research and action in Canada.

CCAVE has produced a number of program resources for community groups to use in discussion of the issues. Topics covered to date include television violence, rock videos, pornography, and war toys. It also markets three printed resources which address the problems raised in entertainment violence. For further information, contact CCAVE at 1 Duke St., Suite 206, Hamilton, Ont. L8P 1W9 (416) 524-0508.

*helping YOU
tackle
increasing
violence
in our
society*

Violence in T.V. Programs...

Ratings by the National Coalition on Television Violence (NCTV)

Very High Violence:	Violent Acts/Hour	Some Violence	
1. Lady Blue (ABC)	50	Knots Landing (CBS)(high verbal)*	5
2. A-Team (NBC)	49	St. Elsewhere (NBC)½ ☆	4
3. Hunter (NBC)	48	Hotel (ABC)	4
4. Miami Vice (NBC)	38	60 Minutes (CBS)★ ★ ★	4
5. Fall Guy (ABC)	38	Highway to Heaven (NBC)★ ★	3
6. Our Family Honor (ABC)	36	Amazing Stories (NBC)	3
7. The Equalizer (CBS)	34	Night Court (NBC)	3
8. Knight Rider (NBC)	33		
9. Stir Crazy (CBS)	31	Low Violence	
10. Mcgyver (ABC)	30	Falcon Crest (CBS)(high verbal)*	2
11. Spencer For Hire (ABC)	28	Trapper John, M.D. (CBS)★ ★	2
12. Scarecrow & Mrs. King (CBS)	28	Dallas (CBS)(high verbal)*	2
13. Riptide (NBC)	27	TV Bloopers (NBC)	2
14. Remington Steele (NBC)	26	Different Strokes (ABC)★ ★	1
15. Hardcastle & McCormick (ABC)	25	Mr. Belvedere (ABC)	1
16. Airwolf (CBS)	24	Newhart (CBS)★ ★	1
17. Misfits of Science (NBC)	21	Punky Brewster (NBC)★ ★ ★ ☆	1
		Gimme a Break (NBC)	1
High Violence		Cheers (NBC)(high alcohol)	1
18. Moonlighting (ABC)	18	Who's The Boss? (ABC)	0
19. Lime Street (ABC)	17	Growing Pains (ABC)★ ★ ★	0
20. Alfred Hitchcock Presents (NBC)	17	Webster (ABC)★ ★ ★	0
21. Insiders (ABC)	16	Love Boat (ABC)★	0
22. Simon & Simon (CBS)	14	Ripley's Believe It Or Not (ABC)	0
23. Cagney & Lacey (CBS)	13	West 57th Street (CBS)★ ★ ★	0
24. Magnum P.I. (CBS)	12	Kate & Allie (CBS)★ ★ ★	0
25. Crazy Like A Fox (CBS)	11	Hometown (CBS)★	0
26. George Burns Comedy Week (CBS)	10	I Dream Of Jeannie (NBC)★	0
		Facts of Life (NBC)★ ★	0
		Cosby Show (NBC)★ ★ ★	0
		Silver Spoons (NBC)★	0
		Golden Girls (NBC)★	0
		227 (NBC)★ ★ ★	0
Moderate Violence			
Hill Street Blues (NBC)	9		
Murder She Wrote (CBS)	8		
Helltown (NBC)★	7		
Twilight Zone (CBS)	7		
Dynasty (ABC) (high verbal viol)*	6		
Charlie & Co. (CBS)	6		
Family Ties (NBC)★	6		
20/20 (ABC)★ ★ ★	6		

* = **high emotional violence**
½ ☆ - ★ ★ ★ ★ = **recommended**

NCTV's definition of violence weights murders, attempted murders, rapes, and other major violent acts more heavily than the standard fist fight. Angry pushes shoves, grabs, etc. are weighted much more lightly than a standard act of violence. Thus, the monitoring team has a very high agreement on which weighted category the various acts of violence fit into.

NCTV also does drift ratings every week, having current monitoring staff rerate programs from past years to assure that we are not changing in our interpretation of our own definition. A monitoring team could have a high inter-rater agreement and yet be interpreting its monitoring definition differently at different points in

time. The drift reliabilities help assure that this is not occurring and allow a greater degree of confidence in comparing the scores of one year to another. We have found that there has been little drift in our violence scores over time. This gives us greater confidence in saying that prime-time TV has become considerably more violent since 1980.

NCTV scores count only physical violence. The basic definition of a violent act is "the hostile and intentional use of physical force by one character against another." Suicide attempts are also counted. Full details of NCTV's monitoring definition are available for \$1.00 from NCTV, P.O. Box 2157, Champaign IL 61820.

Below is a comparison of the most violent programs of NCTV's first monitoring quarter, Fall, 1980 (7/20/80 - 10/25/80) compared to Fall, 1984 (10/4/84 - 1/5/85). Only a blind man would not notice the clear increase in violence that has occurred over this time. The results are in acts of violence per hour, starting with the most violent programs from each year from the top on down:

1980		1984	
Buck Rogers	26	Mike Hammer	57
Dukes of Hazzard	17	A-Team	54
Misadventures Sheriff Lobo	16	V	47
Hart to Hart	16	Matt Houston	43
The Incredible Hulk	14	Cover-Up	37
Galactica 1980	14	Fall Guy	37
Charlie's Angels	12	Hunter	34
Vegas	12	Riptide	29
Barnaby Jones	10	Scarecrow & Mrs. King	29
Tim Conway Show	10	Airwolf	29
Nobody's Perfect	9	T.J. Hooker	27
CHiPs	8	Hawaiian Heat	26
Fantasy Island	7	Miami Vice	25
Dallas	6	Nightrider	23
Three's Company	6	Dukes of Hazzard	22
Speak Up America	5	Remington Steele	20
Mork & Mindy	5	Simon & Simon	20
The White Shadow	4	Hor Pursuit	20
60 Minutes	3	Magnum P.I.	16
Disney's World	2	Jessie	16
Jeffersons	2	Hardcastle&McCormick	16
Taxi	2	Partners In Crime	15
20/20	2	Hill Street Blues	14
etc.			

Gone from the 1980 schedule are programs like the **Waltons**, **Little House on the Prairie**, **Lou Grant**, **NBC Magazine**, **Those Amazing Animals**, **Breaking Away**, **Eight Is Enough**, **Real People**, and a number of other programs low in violence. One week in December, 1980 NBC had the **Osmond Family Show**, the **Bob Hope Show**, the **Dean Martin Show**, the **Steve Allen Show**, and the **Barbara Mandrell Show**. There are just many more hours of violent programs in 1984 than 1980 with many 1984 programs being much more violent than anything that was available on TV in 1980.

TV Violence Found Increasing By Another Measure

Sherwood Schwartz, creator of The Brady Bunch and Gilligan's Island says, "We are surrounded now by violence. I'm very sad to see this happen — not for me, but for my children and their children."

He did a check of the prime-time TV schedule going back 30 years and found: In **1955**, there were no violent, crime-oriented shows. By **1965**, there were 6 hours a week with one hour in the 8 p.m. slot viewed by many children. In **1975**, 21 hours of violent shows, two at 8 p.m. and in **1985**, there were 27 hours of violent shows, nine in the 8 p.m. time slot!

This was presented at the American Psychological Association meeting in Los Angeles. Editors of Cagney & Lacey and Hill Street Blues blamed parents saying they need to take more responsibility for their kids' viewing. (USA Today, 8/27/85)

Cartoon Monitoring Results

Gone from TV is last year's best pro-social cartoon programming. The four-star **Get Along Gang** and three-star **Prior's Place** have disappeared. Star Wars has invaded and Dungeons & Dragons is still being promoted by CBS to kids despite the 60 deaths now linked to the fantasy role-playing game. Professional wrestling and Mr. T each have their own programs. Saturday morning's most violent cartoon, The **Superpower Hour**, is yet another war cartoon along with D & D, and Spiderman. Children are started early learning racism, being taught degrading images of Arabs and Russians on Hulk Hogan.

Positive elements in Saturday morning cartoons are definitely decreased from last year, although they do exist, often mixed in with harmful messages.

The **most violent cartoon network is ABC averaging 30 acts of violence per hour** followed by NBC at 23.3 and CBS at 18.4.

Super Power Hour	62
Bugs Bunny	55
Dungeons & Dragons	41
Mr. T	38
Incredible Hulk/Spiderman	37
Ewoks & Droids	33
Hulk Hogan's Rock'N'Wrestling	32
Bullwinkle	28
13 Ghosts of Scooby Do	26
Smurfs	25
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Storybreaks	16
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Bandstand	0


The items on pages 10, 11 and 12 have been excerpted with permission from the quarterly newsletter of the National Coalition on Television Violence, the American counterpart to Canadians Concerned About Violence in Entertainment. Membership in the Canadian organization (see page 9) brings with it copies of the newsletters of both organizations.

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of
Canadian Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Children

We have examined the balance sheet of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as at April 30, 1986, and the statement of financial activities for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at April 30, 1986 and the results of its financial activities for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Midland, Ontario
May 30, 1986

Chartered Accountants

Balance Sheet
as at April 30, 1986

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash (note 2)	\$ 6,025	\$ 25
Bank - current account	4,848	482
Bank - savings account	526	498
Prepaid rent	-	295
Inventory	840	1,170
	<u>12,239</u>	<u>2,470</u>
Fixed assets, at cost (note 1(c))	10,471	7,310
Less - accumulated depreciation	<u>4,441</u>	<u>2,933</u>
	6,030	4,377
	<u>\$ 18,269</u>	<u>\$ 6,847</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Operating section		
Accounts payable accruals	\$ 3,393	\$ 950
Accrued for cost of reprints (note 2)	6,000	-
Surplus, operating section	<u>2,846</u>	<u>1,520</u>
	12,239	2,470
Equity in fixed assets (note 1(c))		
Balance, beginning of year	4,377	4,131
Add - additions charged to operations	<u>3,161</u>	<u>1,340</u>
	7,538	5,471
Less - depreciation	<u>1,508</u>	<u>1,094</u>
	6,030	4,377
	<u>\$ 18,269</u>	<u>\$ 6,847</u>

Statement of Financial Activities
Operating Section - General

	Year Ended April 30	
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
Support		
Membership fees and donations	\$ 64,087	\$ 53,954
Sale of publications and tapes	1,044	1,583
Rental income	1,950	-
Interest and foreign exchange income	185	427
	<u>67,266</u>	<u>55,964</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and consulting fees	13,801	18,214
Publication costs - Journal	26,010	16,177
Postage	2,326	2,850
Public information - brochures, etc.	2,858	3,669
Office supplies and printing	2,895	5,404
Computer operating costs	2,936	1,788
Equipment rentals and maintenance	259	2,059
Equipment purchases	3,161	1,340
Office rent	3,815	3,280
Telephone	1,179	1,226
Legal and audit	700	700
Corporate project (note 2)	6,000	-
	<u>65,940</u>	<u>56,707</u>
Net revenue (loss) for the year	1,326	(743)
Surplus, beginning of year	<u>1,520</u>	<u>2,263</u>
Surplus, end of year	<u>\$ 2,846</u>	<u>\$ 1,520</u>

Notes to Financial Statements
April 30, 1986

1. Accounting policies

The Society follows generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations which include the following:

- a) Membership fees and donations are taken into revenue in the fiscal year received.
- b) Inventory is recognized only on items purchased for resale and does not include supplies or reprints on hand.
- c) Fixed assets are charged to operations in the year acquired. However, to recognize the value of equipment on hand, the equipment is capitalized and depreciated on a 20% diminishing balance basis with an offset to "equity in fixed assets account".

2. Corporate project

During the latter part of April, 1986, \$6,000 was received in response to an appeal to Canadian Corporations for funds to reprint the four booklets being supplied when requested from secondary school teachers. The cost is approximately \$1,500 for each reprint and printing began in May, 1986. The \$6,000 has been set aside for this project.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
May 1/85 - April 30/86

It is satisfying to be involved with an organization which is continuing to expand its membership, its financial base, and its influence. For years it has seemed that we were destined to be but a tiny light in the pervasive blackness of a world unwilling to see and meet the emotional needs of infants and toddlers.

But as Erickson has so aptly said:

"Some day, maybe there will exist a well considered and yet fervent public conviction that the most deadly of all possible sins is the mutilation of a child's spirit..."

Although basically it remains a dark world for children, it does appear that the number of people recognizing the importance of the goals and objectives of the CSPCC is increasing.

We are at least recognizing more clearly what Paul Sullivan has pointed out:

"We men have always known what to do when asked to choose between children and ourselves; now women are beginning to find that self-realization, North American style, doesn't mix with nurturing a family."

There is hope that when women gain a secure equal footing in what has always been a man's world, that men and women will both be more able to acknowledge the needs of infants and toddlers as at least equal to their own.

Our task is to convince both men and women that the most important job either will ever do is to meet the emotional needs of new human beings when it is most necessary - during the very earliest few years of life.

On a practical level, the CSPCC is continuing to distribute four 16-page booklets - the latest reprinting of 30,000 copies paid for by corporate donations. We are moving forward with our video tape program supported again with a most generous donation from the Muttart Foundation of Edmonton. Countertop coin boxes are now in use as a means of fund raising and enable individuals to assist the work of the CSPCC in a concrete way. Public service television announcements (which have been in the works for over a year) will soon be carrying the message that while infants and toddlers cannot fight for themselves, or speak up for their rights, or hire lawyers, or form unions, or lobby governments - this organization can and will.

Elliott Barker

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND GOALS

of the

CANADIAN SOCIETY for the PREVENTION of CRUELTY to CHILDREN

As the name of our organization states, our purpose, simply put, is to **prevent** cruelty to children.

We are especially concerned with prevention, because **in the long run**, prevention is the only effective solution to the problem of cruelty to children.

For a number of reasons preventive work is more difficult than helping children who are already hurt.

1. When you are helping a particular person who is hurting, you become an actor in a human drama that has great reality because you can attach a face to it. Preventive work doesn't usually offer the satisfaction that comes from attaching faces to the people you "help". Usually one has to be satisfied with statistical trends in faceless data as an index of progress, and these don't provide much ego satisfaction.

2. The inability to easily attach faces to preventive work creates another problem. It is far easier to obtain financial support to help individuals, particularly children, who are hurting, than it is to obtain financial support for a less tangible abstraction like prevention.

3. Related to this very real financial bias in favour of help after the damage has occurred, is the fact that most helping professions are organized on a fee for service basis to those who are already casualties. Imagine the push for prevention if psychiatrists, family doctors, pediatricians and obstetricians were paid less, not more, every time someone in their catchment area required their services for treatment of a problem.

4. Finally, preventive work is more difficult because helping individuals who are hurt raises none of the ethical, moral or political issues involved in, for example, taking a child away from abusing parents, permitting abortion for a rape victim, or licensing parents.

There is as yet no effective lobby to prevent the emotional damage of tomorrow's children.

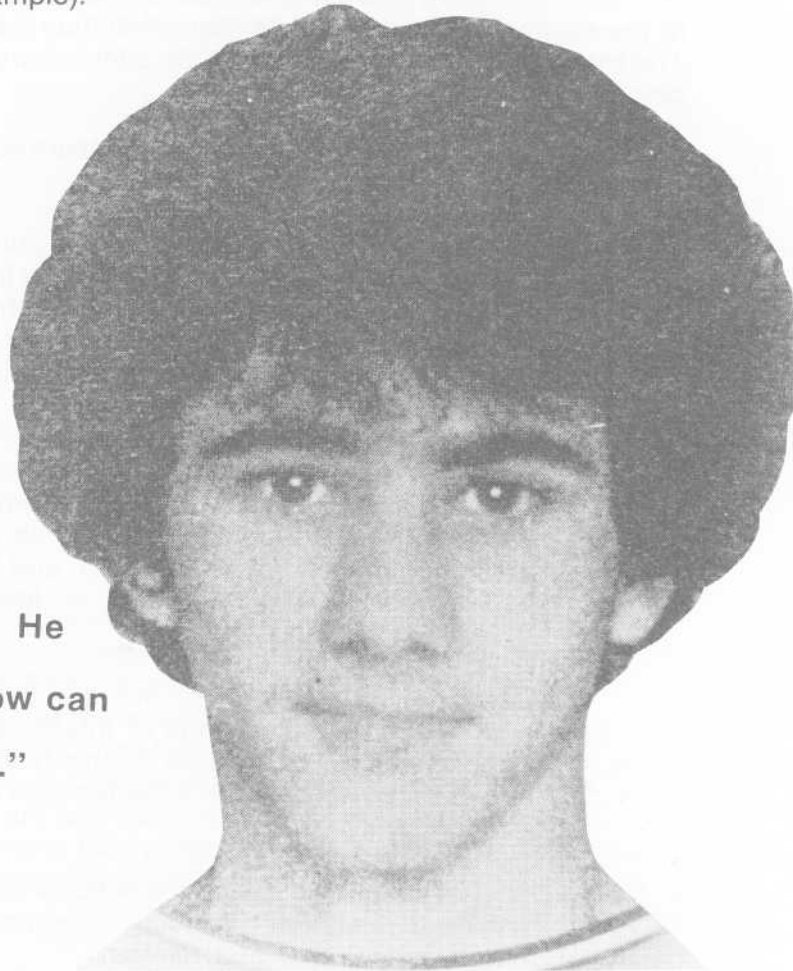
Organizations representing the disabled consist mainly of parents and disabled children whose primary interest is, understandably, adequate services for people already afflicted. They tend to press for expansion and improvement of their programs, and political realities dictate that legislators respond to these pressures and to their own political need to keep costs and taxes down — in the short run.

Secondly, the CSPCC is especially concerned with **emotional** cruelty because that is the more fundamental problem. (It is hard to envisage physical or sexual cruelty to children occurring without emotional cruelty.)

But dealing with emotional cruelty is more difficult than dealing with physical or sexual cruelty because:

1. Many types of emotional cruelty are not easily understood or even seen (emotional availability, double-bind situations, pseudo-mutuality, and unconscious hostility for example).
2. Emotional cruelty is often distorted through psychological defence mechanisms so that it is interpreted as virtue, duty, or care by the perpetrator, any observers and often even by the victim (spanking a child, or ignoring a crying baby for example).
3. The damage caused by emotional cruelty shows up later, often many years later, making it harder to show a clear connection with the cause (some personality disorders for example).
4. The damage produced is often not easily apparent to the victim or others (deficient capacities for trust, empathy, and affection for example).

He thinks he killed his mother because: "I wanted her love so bad it hurt me inside." He does not miss her. "How can I? She was never there."



Until we become sensitized to the small child's suffering, this wielding of power by adults will continue to be a normal aspect of the human condition, for no one pays attention to or takes seriously what is regarded as trivial, since the victims are "only children". But in twenty years' time these children will be adults who will have to pay it all back to their own children.

Alice Miller

Finally, the CSPCC is especially concerned with emotional cruelty that occurs **in the earliest years** of a child's life, rather than that which occurs at a later age. The reason for this emphasis is that the consequences of early damage are more devastating and permanent.

But dealing with emotional cruelty which occurs early in a child's life is especially difficult because:

1. Infants and toddlers aren't physically able to run away from cruel treatment, cannot fight back in self defence, cannot speak well enough to tell others of the pain they are suffering, can't hire lawyers to speak for them, can't lobby government to have their needs met, and can't form unions to protect their rights.
2. Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Because parents have such complete power over infants and toddlers they can indulge their selfish whims — much as most men have done with women, and humans have done with animals throughout history — ignoring the needs of those who are less powerful.
3. There is a long tradition of discounting and denying the importance of the feelings of infants and toddlers and a general lack of awareness of the recent evidence which shows that the emotional experience of very young children is important.
4. The suffering caused by emotional cruelty at a young age can be so massively disturbing to the victim that it is repressed (forgotten) and later denied.

The objectives of the CSPCC are exceedingly difficult to address for all the reasons listed above. This fact does not, however, alter their fundamental importance. We should not be deflected from these difficult but necessary goals in favour of objectives that are more attractive and easily achievable.

The goal of the CSPCC stated positively, is to create a society in which every child's most sensitive emotional needs are met early in life. When that goal is reached, all children will grow into adults with well developed capacities for trust, empathy, and affection. These capacities enable adults to form the lasting, mutually satisfying interpersonal relationships upon which all past societies have depended for their humanity, and upon which tomorrow's world depends for its survival.

To achieve our goal, the CSPCC must help all people to understand more clearly:

- A. That trusting, empathic, and affectionate relationships are essential for individuals and society.
- B. That empathic care of infants and toddlers is necessary in order for them to grow into adults with well developed capacities for trust, empathy, and affection.
- C. That lifelong emotional problems can be caused by emotional cruelty to infants and toddlers.



The CSPCC must therefore help every potential parent:

1. Understand what is meant by **Empathic Parenting**, namely:

a) Being willing and able to put oneself into one's child's shoes in order to correctly identify the child's feelings.

b) Being willing and able to behave toward the child in a way which takes those feelings into account.

Empathic parenting takes an enormous amount of time and energy and fully involves both parents in a co-operative, sharing way.

Helping Mode (Begins Mid-Twentieth Century): The helping mode involves the proposition that the child knows better than the parent what it needs at each stage of its life, and fully involves both parents in the child's life as they work to empathize with and fulfill its expanding and particular needs. There is no attempt at all to discipline or form "habits". Children are neither struck nor scolded, and are apologized to if yelled at under stress. The helping mode involves an enormous amount of time, energy, and discussion on the part of both parents, especially in the first six years, for helping a young child reach its daily goals means continually responding to it, playing with it, tolerating its regressions, being its servant rather than the other way around, interpreting its emotional conflicts, and providing the objects specific to its evolving interests. Few parents have yet consistently attempted this kind of child care...

LLoyd de Mause
The History of Childhood

2. Understand the psychological barriers to empathic parenting, namely our tendency to unwittingly project our own feelings onto the child (projection), and/or to relate to the child in part as though it were our own parent (reversal). (For example, believing an infant is inhabited by the devil or expecting expressions of love and care from the child.)

3. Understand the cultural values which can interfere with empathic parenting, in particular our devotion to consumerism and materialism, and our acceptance of arbitrary male dominance. The former makes it seem necessary to put the earning of money ahead of nurturing one's children and the latter interferes with co-operative, shared, parental child care.

4. Understand why prenatal care is so important.

5. Appreciate the advantages of enlightened birthing practices.

6. Appreciate the importance of breastfeeding until the child no longer requires it.

7. Appreciate the potential harm caused by separations between infants and toddlers and their mothers.

8. Appreciate the potential dangers inherent in the care of infants and toddlers by changing, shared, hired substitutes.

9. Appreciate the greatly increased difficulty in meeting the emotional needs of infants and toddlers that are closely spaced.

10. Appreciate the importance of a father who is able to relate to his wife and child in a non-arbitrary, co-operative, empathic way and is willing to fully share in the care of their child.

11. Appreciate the need for a network of relatives, friends and organizations such as playgroups, which enable parents to share with other mothers and fathers the stresses, the hard work and the joys that are an inevitable part of the empathic care of infants and toddlers.

To accomplish its objectives, the CSPCC is at present:

1. Increasing the number of people who are aware of the existence of the Society and its objectives.
2. Building a membership of concerned, informed and committed citizens.
3. Producing, promoting and circulating audiovisual and print materials related to its objectives.
4. Maintaining a central office to co-ordinate these activities.

“We must be willing to face the hard reality that preventing child abuse and neglect is possible only when we are ready to attack its sources in the fabric of our society and culture, rather than merely provide social and medical services to its victims...”

David Gil

"If infants learn what love is, they can go through life with sanity and happiness."

Herbert Ratner

CSPCC BRIEF TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY TASK FORCE ON CHILD CARE

May 14, 1986

A. THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHILDREN FOR CARE

This organization's concern is for the needs of children. More specifically, our concern is with the emotional needs of children in the earliest formative years of life.

We see the needs of very young children as more important than the needs of parents and other adults. Older children and adults have a greater capacity to recover from the damaging effects of emotional abuse and neglect than infants and toddlers.

That the needs of infants and toddlers have traditionally been secondary to the needs of parents and adults is most clearly seen historically by the practices of infanticide, abandonment and swaddling. (1) When the needs of infants and toddlers interfere with the priorities of parents, children's needs are generally ignored, re-defined or rationalized as not important.

Until this century the emotional needs of infants and toddlers have not been well understood. (2) The long-lasting damage caused by inadequate child care prior to the age of three was not seen as clearly as it is now. (3)

(1) The History of Childhood - Lloyd DeMause (Appendix 1)

(2) Babies and Individual Care - Penelope Leach - Student Reprint #2 (Appendix 2)

(3) The Diseases of Non-Attachment - Selma Fraiberg - Student Reprint #1 (Appendix 3)

"I am worried about millions of children who are being served by Child Care Industries Incorporated. I worry about babies and small children who are delivered like packages to neighbours, to strangers, to storage houses like Merry Mites. In the years when a baby and his parents make their first enduring human partnerships, when love, trust, joy, and self-valuation emerge through the nurturing love of human partners, millions of small children in our land may be learning values for survival in our baby banks. They may learn the rude justice of the communal playpen. They may learn that the world outside of the home is an indifferent world, or even a hostile world. Or, they may learn that all adults are interchangeable, that love is capricious, that human attachment is a perilous investment, and that love should be hoarded for the self in the service of survival."

Selma Fraiberg

B. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT MEETING THE EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS

When provision is made at all for young families, it tends to be in ways which seem to be designed to help mothers out of mothering, rather than help them with it or within it. In other words, the most money, time and publicity is expended on schemes for providing workplace nurseries, daycare or other ways in which a mother may legitimately leave her baby. If a comparable amount of effort was spent on finding ways of helping her enjoy the job she's doing with that baby, we might see a very different picture of demand. (4)

Our concern with daycare programs for infants and toddlers is that the interruption of individual continuous care prejudices the development of capacities for trust, empathy and affection. (5)

That this serious problem has been overlooked in the rush for substitute care for infants and toddlers is mostly an indication of the enormous pressures on parents to have their children looked after by someone else.

But our relative lack of concern regarding the consequences of repeated lengthy separations and changing shared caregivers inherent in daycare stems from another fact. We simply do not have adequate means to measure the capacities of trust, empathy and affection, when these qualities present themselves in adults who have suffered from disrupted attachment in early childhood. The clearest indication we have of the trouble is their inability to form lasting caring relationships. (6)

(4) Babies Arent's Boring - reprinted from "The Guardian", (Appendix 4)

(5) Daycare and Partial Psychopathy - Empathic Parenting, Vol. 9, Iss. 2, Spring 1986, (Appendix 5)

(6) Consumerism, Arbitrary Male Dominance and Day Care, - E.T. Barker, Journal of the Canadian Association for Young Children, Winter/Spring, 1984-85 (Appendix 6)

So far, the standards of sexual and parental liberation have followed a male script for both sexes. Traditionally, men, not women, have been more likely to seek numerous sexual partners without emotional entanglement; men, not women, have been more likely to turn parental duties on and off as business demands or personal choice dictates. This turn of events apparently comes from confusing difference with equality. The arguments set forth in this essay may rankle those whose version of sexual equality requires females to model their lives on male patterns, placing great emphasis on work and little emphasis on family and home.

Alice Rossi

C. MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN TODAY'S WORLD

It is important to remember that the emotional needs of infants and toddlers have not changed, although today's parent have.

Most importantly, the extent to which we are all now steeped in the values of consumerism and materialism (and status and careerism based on these), and the desire for more and more women to enter the work force combine to produce an unprecedented demand for substitute care for infants and toddlers.

In order to reduce this pressure we must re-double our efforts to bring about a society in which women are in no sense penalized because of their sex. (7) At the same time it is essential that the distinction between difference and inequality as articulated by the feminist sociologist Alice Rossi be understood. (8)

The fact is that the working conditions for mothers who work full time parenting their infants and toddlers are at best inadequate. The job carries with it a degree of social status inversely proportional to its importance. Much can be done to help parents with the difficult job of parenting rather than the current vigorous efforts to make it easier for them to have others do the job. (9, 10, 11)

There is an urgent need for a greater awareness of the "downside" of consumerism, particularly where its values conflict with the priority given to the nurturing of infants and toddlers. (12, 13)

(7) "Kiss Sleeping Beauty Goodbye" - Madonna Kolbenschlag, Epilogue: (Appendix 7)

(8) The Biosocial Side of Parenthood - Alice S. Rossi, (Appendix 8)

(9) Penelope Leach - A Different View of Help for Families: Long-term (Appendix 9)

(10) Playcentres (Appendix 10)

(11) CSPCC Goals of Parenting Education (Appendix 11)

(12) Consumerism (Appendix 12)

(13) Voluntary Simplicity (Appendix 13)

“The circle is endless and vicious: the husband exploits the wife, she exploits the small children, and the adolescent males soon join the elder men in exploiting the women, and so on.”

Eric Fromm

Many people work long hours, develop ulcers and live with great stress because they believe their family benefits. Stop and ask your family what they want...Give your family the choice between those possessions and the time and peace of mind you are diverting from them to earn it.

Andora Freeman

“Hard times have taught us a valuable lesson that we all recite idiotically but few of us really believe: material possessions do not make you happy.”

Cynthia Hollander

CONCLUSION

Whenever the more powerful arbitrarily exercise authority over those who cannot stand up for their rights, someone, somewhere, sometime pays a price.

We have finally come to realize that this is so for women vis-a-vis men.

How long before we recognize that the same is true when we as parents arbitrarily over-ride the wishes of infants and toddlers for the individual and continuous care they want and need?

It is a sad state of affairs when you consider that we are allowing the values of consumerism (selfishness, envy and greed) and the inequities of arbitrary male dominance to be the driving force in creating child care arrangements which pre-judge the capacities for genuine humanity — trust, empathy and affection — in tomorrow's adults.

We must get on with the job of helping parents to succeed in the most important job either will ever have — creating a new human being with the capacity to form and maintain stable, caring relationships.

E.T. Barker, M.D., D.Psych., F.R.C.P.(C)
President

**Excerpts from
A SUBMISSION TO THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE**

**from FULL-TIME PARENTS (Newmarket)
YORK REGION, ONTARIO**

RATIONALE

Community is a woven fabric of human relationships. One of the most essential and basic factors cementing such relationships is love. Again and again research has shown that our ability to love, that is, to form mutually satisfying human relationships, which in turn allow us to build and maintain communities, is established during the first three years of our lives. Research has also shown, what after all is common sense, that the ability to love is derived from loving parents, or at least one constant and loving care-giver.

This process of early nurturing occurs most naturally within the family unit, and most often with the mother as primary care-giver. In the past few decades, while women fought, quite justifiably, to seek equal footing with men in the working world, the crucial task of full-time parenting, and especially mothering, has sometimes been belittled, or even seen as a hinderance to a woman's self-fulfillment. In the light of studies that show the absolute importance of a mutually satisfying and continually nurturing relationship between a primary care-giver and a baby, it is time, perhaps, to reaffirm the importance of full-time parenting...

RECOMMENDATIONS

SECTION I - TAXATION

It seems clear to us that there are serious disincentives built into the current tax system for families raising young children at home. Families with one source of income are not entitled to child care tax deductions; one spouse is denied access to the Canada Pension Plan and economic gains from income tax-splitting are forfeited. In other words, the present tax model actually encourages families to go outside the home to work and, as a result, fuels the demand for daycare services.

With alterations in the Income Tax legislation to reflect more closely the 'Small Business'

model, such inequities in the Canada Pension Plan and other child care deductions could be corrected while at the same time slow the growing demand for daycare services. Using the 'Small Business' model, the working spouse could 'hire' the other as an employee in the home. The service being delivered would be daycare services, deductible up to a reasonable limit, CPP contributions for the full-time parent could be made by the single wage earner and, at the same time, be deducted as a 'service-producing' expense. Other appropriate expenses and deductions could likewise fall into this format.

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We therefore recommend to the Government of Canada,

- i) that the Income Tax System adopt a concept of 'family income' with appropriate deductions, to recognize the value to society of the nurturing and development of young children in the home.

Pursuant to this format change we specifically recommend to the Government of Canada,

- ii) that the cost of community activities for young children be an allowable deduction to income reporting.
- iii) that parent relief expenses due to illness or incapacity of the full-time parent be allowable deductions to income reporting.
- iv) that Canada Pension Plan contributions for the full-time parent be made to, and be deductible from, the 'family income'.

In order to ensure that these changes to the tax structure are done fairly and properly, we recommend to the Government of Canada,

- v) that tax consultants be directed by the government to study the concept and draft specific proposals around these recommendations.

SECTION II - EMPLOYMENT

In an attempt to have our government encourage industry to support the development of future citizens and employees, we recommend to the Government of Canada,

- i) that greater incentives to industry and individuals be developed to successfully encourage Job-Sharing opportunities in the work place

AND

- ii) that job protection guarantees be extended to a three year parent-leave.

SECTION III - EDUCATION

To assist parents to better understand the needs of their children we recommend to this Special Committee on Child Care,

- i) that ways and means should be found to provide to persons who will be responsible for meeting the developmental needs of young children more educational opportunities through such groups as Public Health, Boards of Education, the media, and community facilities such as hospitals, libraries and other community agencies.

SECTION IV - DISADVANTAGED PARENTS

We further recognize the special problems of disadvantaged parents who, because of poverty or the threat of poverty, find it difficult to meet the needs of their young children through full-time parenting. We therefore recommend to the Government of Canada,

- i) that the Government of Canada, recognizing the most recent research in child development, undertake a detailed study for this group on how full-time parenting can best be promoted and supported.

SECTION V - PARENT SUPPORT

We also recognize the need that parents have to support each other in this most important task of rearing and nurturing children. Parents need other parents to support each other. As Fredelle Maynard states in her book 'The Child Care Crisis', "Getting involved with other parents' problems helps with your own. And when you can give others hope, your own faith is strengthened." To this end we recommend to the Government of Canada,

- i) that funding be made available to the provinces to develop parent-child resource centres similar to the Children's Storefront Model based in Toronto, Ontario. □

Infancy is the perpetual Messiah, which comes into the arms of fallen men, and pleads with them to return to paradise.

Emerson

PARENTS SENSIBLES

Journal de la Société Canadienne
pour la Prévention de la Cruauté envers les Enfants

Tome 9

Numéro 3

L'Été 1986

Quand l'amour et la joie sont le plus vivantes et le plus vulnérables

Je crois que toutes les haines et les furies du monde sont des cris de douleur de l'amour contrariée. Et la signification de la joie est la réalisation de l'amour.

"La vie spirituelle," dit le Médecin, "est une vie de joie créative." C'est la meilleure définition que je connaisse. Elle évoque la connaissance secrète que j'ai entretenue dans mon enfance et que je reconnais aujourd'hui comme étant inné dans chaque enfant.

C'est pendant l'enfance que l'amour et la joie sont le plus vivantes et le plus vulnérables. Voilà de quelle façon mes idées de l'amour reviennent aux enfants. Je crois que lorsque nous pourrons nous tenir assez fermes dans notre moi pour aimer les enfants - pour apprendre à les aimer de façon réaliste, pratique, informée - tout crime, toute haine, toute cruauté, disparaîtra de la surface de la terre.

*"Quoted from SPIRIT RIVER TO ANGELS' ROOST © 1977
Patricia Joudry published by Tundra Books of Montreal"*

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Recognizing that the capacity to give and receive trust, affection and empathy is fundamental to being human.

Knowing that all of us suffer the consequences when children are raised in a way that makes them affectionless and violent, and;

Realizing that for the first time in History we have definite knowledge that these qualities are determined by the way a child is cared for in the very early years.

CREDO



WE BELIEVE THAT:

- The necessity that every new human being develop the capacity for trust, affection and empathy dictates that potential parents re-order their priorities with this in mind.
- Most parents are willing and able to provide their children with the necessary loving empathic care, given support from others, appropriate understanding of the task and the conviction of its absolute importance.
- It is unutterably cruel to permanently maim a human being by failing to provide this quality of care during the first three years of life.

THERE IS AN URGENCY THEREFORE TO:

- Re-evaluate all our institutions, traditions and beliefs from this perspective.
- Oppose and weaken all forces which undermine the desire or ability of parents to successfully carry out a task which ultimately affects us all.
- Support and strengthen all aspects of family and community life which assist parents to meet their obligation to each new member of the human race.