THE COMMON SENSE BOOK OF BABY AND CHILD CARE

The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care written by Benjamin Spock, is a manual on infant and child care first published in 1946, almost instantly, selling 500,000 copies in its first six months. By Spock's death in 1998, over 50 million copies of the book had been sold, making it the best-selling book of the twentieth century in America, aside from the Bible.[1] As of 2011, the book had been translated into 39 languages.[2]

Spock and his manual helped revolutionize child-rearing methods for the post-World War II generation. Mothers heavily relied on Spock's advice and appreciated his friendly, reassuring tone.[2] Spock emphasizes in his book that, above all, parents should have confidence in their abilities and trust the "Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do."[1]"
Spock's book helped revolutionize child care in the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to this, rigid schedules permeated pediatric care. Influential authors like behavioral psych Infant and Child in 1928, and pediatrician Luther Emmett Holt, who wrote The Care and Feeding of Children: A Catechism for the Use of Mothers and Children's Nurses in 1894, told parents training at an early, specific age. Watson, Holt, and other child care experts obsessed over rigidity because they believed that irregularities in feeding and bowel diseases seen among babies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Furthermore, these experts, whose ideas were embodied in Infant Care pamphlets distributed by the U.S. government, warned against “excessive” affection by parents. These experts recommended kissing children only on the forehead and limiting hugs or other displays of affection.

INTENT

As a practicing pediatrician in the 1930s, Spock noticed that prevailing methods in pediatric care seemed cruel and ignored the emotional needs of the child. He was a pediatrician with a psychoanalytic background. Seeking useful ways to implement Freudian philosophy into child-rearing practices, Spock would try out his advice on patients and their mothers, continuously seeking their feedback.

Unlike leading child care experts prior to the 1940s, Spock supports flexibility in child-rearing, advising parents to treat each child as an individual. Drawing on his psychoanalytic training, he explains the behavior and needs of children at different ages. Spock clarifies in his manual that while parents should respect their children, they also must ask for respect in return.

REVISED EDITIONS

During Spock's lifetime, seven editions of his book were published. Several co-authors have helped revise the book since the fifth edition. Since Spock's death in 1998, two more editions have been published.

REACTION

Within a year of being published, The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care had sold 750,000 copies, mostly by word-of-mouth advertising. Mothers appreciated Spock's views, however, were criticized by some experts as being too extreme; critics were concerned that a vegan diet could be unhealthy for infants.

LEGACY

Spock's views, however, were criticized by some experts as likely to result in nutritional deficiencies for children unless carefully planned.
Parenting

Types

- Adoptive
- Alloparenting
- Complex family
- Coparenting
- Foster care
- Kommune I
- LGBT
- Matrilocal family
- Noncustodial
- Nuclear family
- Orphaned
- Shared
- Single parent
- Blended family
- Surrogacy
- In loco parentis

Theories - Areas

- Attachment theory
- Applied behavior analysis
- Behaviorism
- Child development
- Cognitive development
- Developmental psychology
- Human development
- Love
- Maternal bond
- Nature versus nurture
- Parental investment
- Paternal bond
- Pediatrics
- Social psychology

Styles

- Attachment parenting
- Concerted cultivation
- Gatekeeper parent
- Helicopter parent
- Nurturant parenting
- Slow parenting
- Soccer mom
- Strict father model
- Taking Children Seriously
- Work at home parent

- After-school activity
- Allowance
- Bedtime
- Child care
CATEGORIES

CHILD CARE
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
Education, Parent, Early childhood education, Child development, School

TOILET TRAINING
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
Urination, Africa, United States, Toilet paper, Toilet

SUGGESTIONS

BENJAMIN SPOCK
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
Pediatrics, Vietnam War, Love, Psychoanalysis, Rowing at the Summer Olympics

STEVEN PARKER
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care, Steve Parker (defensive end, born 1956), Steve Parker (defensive end, born 1959), Steve Parker (writer), Shirley MacLaine

LIMBIC RESONANCE
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
Limbic system, Brain, A General Theory of Love, Nervous system, Empathy

1946 BOOKS
ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLE
1946 In Literature, Foundations of Algebraic Geometry, Setting (fiction), A History of Philosophy (Copleston), A Little Yes and a Big No
(often referred to simply as Baby and Child Care), written by Dr. Benjamin Spock, was first published on 14 July 1946, and is one of the biggest best sellers of all time. By 1998, it had sold more than 50 million copies. In its most general sense, discipline refers to systematic instruction given to a … Wikipedia. TheYoungandtheRestlessminorcharacters – The following are characters from the American soap opera The Young and the Restless who are notable for their actions or relationships, but who do not warrant their own articles. Contents 1 Current Characters 1.1 Genevieve … Wikipedia. TheLastPuritan – The Last Puritan: A Memoir in the Form of a Novel was written by the American philosopher George Santayana. The groundbreaking American childcare manual urged parents to trust themselves, but was also accused of being the source of postwar 'permissiveness'. Spock also projects a seductive, aw-shucks pragmatism on every page of Baby and Child Care. He insists his is not the last word, that mothers and fathers always know best and that "natural loving care" is the only way to go. Spock is also profoundly American in outlook. "Your baby is born to be a reasonable, friendly human being," he writes, in words that could have been written by Thomas Jefferson or Benjamin Franklin. Later, reflecting Enlightenment thought, he would argue quite passionately that the growing child is fundamentally and naturally good, sensible, joyful and healthy.
Benjamin Spock was the oldest of six children so he often helped take care of his siblings. He studied literature and history at Yale University, and was also very active in athletics, actually winning an Olympic gold medal in rowing in 1924. Benjamin Spock began studies at Yale medical school in 1925, but later transferred to Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating top of his class in 1929. In 1946, drawing from his observations as well as his experience as a father of two sons, Dr. Spock wrote *The Common Sense Book Of Baby And Child Care*. The purpose was to counteract the popular parenting ideas of the time and offer an alternative approach that was better for both the parent and the child. The book's success was unprecedented. This book is the 595th greatest Nonfiction book of all time as determined by thegreatestbooks.org. This page also displays the various versions (paperback, hardcover, audio) and prices for the book on Amazon.com. It has been translated into 39 languages, claimed by Channel 4 programme "Bringing Up Baby" to be second only to the Bible in non-fiction sales. Another source places the book as the seventh bestselling "non-fiction" book of all time. The groundbreaking American childcare manual urged parents to trust themselves, but was also accused of being the source of postwar "permissiveness." Spock also projects a seductive, aw-shucks pragmatism on every page of *Baby and Child Care*. He insists his is not the last word, that mothers and fathers always know best and that "natural loving care" is the only way to go. Spock is also profoundly American in outlook. "Your baby is born to be a reasonable, friendly human being," he writes, in words that could have been written by Thomas Jefferson or Benjamin Franklin. Later, reflecting Enlightenment thought, he would argue quite passionately that the growing child is fundamentally and naturally good, sensible, joyful and healthy.