

Letter of Concern

to the

American Academy of Pediatrics

regarding

Preparation for Parenting & On Becoming BABYWISE

February 10, 1997
Kathleen Turner

Note of Introduction:

I am submitting this letter to the American Academy of Pediatrics because I am concerned about the potentially harmful aspects of the infant management program outlined in *Preparation for Parenting* and *On Becoming BABYWISE*.

I am deeply concerned about this parenting program because it is affecting so many babies; many of the medical claims it contains are untrue, misleading, or unsubstantiated; the people who developed it are not physicians, child development experts, or Lactation Consultants; they have been unresponsive or aggressive when questioned about their claims; and pediatricians are seeing babies with dehydration, slow growth and development, as well as “failure to thrive” whose parents are attempting to follow it. Further, many pediatricians are surely seeing babies with similar but less extreme problems without realizing they may be the result of this widely disseminated parenting program.

Although I have received much input from Medical Doctors, Nurses, Book Authors, Researchers, Counselors, Lactation Consultants, and Others (see attached lists) in preparing this report I am not a healthcare professional myself and do not claim to be an expert in either breastfeeding or child development. My purpose is to combine information from a variety of knowledgeable sources and provide direct quotes from *Preparation for Parenting* and *On Becoming BABYWISE* as well as the manual and book themselves in hopes that they may be of some assistance to the Academy.

The information included in this report to the Academy includes (in the following order):

- Lists of Medical Doctors, Nurses, Book Authors, Researchers, Counselors, Lactation Consultants, and others who agree with the concerns expressed in this letter and are looking forward to getting the Academy’s feedback on GFI’s potentially harmful program. Many of these contacts would welcome the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the Academy.
- My letter of concern.
- A report presented by the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Orange County (CA) that concluded that the *Preparation for Parenting* Program contradicted all six positive aspects/criteria that the Child Abuse Prevention Council endorses for healthy child development. Several comments from this report are included in my letter.
- A report from a hospital in North Carolina that formed a committee to review the Ezzos’ materials. They concluded that the program was not adequately supported by conventional medical practice, outlined 11 areas in which the Ezzos make misleading claims, and warned the pediatricians in their department and a local church against the program.
- Examples of babies with problems whose parents were attempting to follow the Ezzo program.

I am also including a copy of both the *Preparation for Parenting* manual and the *On Becoming BABYWISE* book as well as a promotional brochure distributed by GFI.

I very much appreciate the Academy taking the time to review all of these materials and am looking forward to getting the Academy's feedback on *Preparation for Parenting and On Becoming BABYWISE*.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Turner, mother
MBA, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, 1989