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The Secretary,
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services
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Submission No: 208
AUTHORISED: 16/8/06


Dear Sir or Madam,

Re Inquiry: Balancing Work and Family

1 Further to my earlier submissions, I realize it is probably far too late for another one, but information to Members of the Committee should be as up-to-date as possible, and this is a fast moving topic, as shown by the new ALP policy outlined in the attached recent article: "ALP's baby bonus-more leave- less tax" by Matt Wade, July 29, 2006, *Sydney Morning Herald*. This policy accords with accumulating new evidence about the importance of mothering and breastfeeding to world best practice for optimal human development.

2 More evidence is summarized in these significant books:-

Biddulph S. 2005. **Raising Babies: Should under 3s go to nursery?** London, Harper Thorsons.

Manne A. 2005. **Motherhood: How should we care for our children?** Sydney, Allen & Unwin.

National Institute of Child Health & Development (ed) 2006. **Childcare and Child Development.** Guildford Press.

3 Recently the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children sent an attractive 50-page booklet, ***The Forgotten Sides of Daycare for under 3s***, to each Member of Canada's Federal House of Representatives, with a covering letter, as reproduced below. The booklet presents many expert opinions about the risks of early childcare. Its 4 cover pages may be seen on <http://empathicparenting.org/cover.pdf> and the text is on <http://empathicparenting.org/inside.pdf>
For references see <http://empathicparenting.org/4studies/>

I attach pdf copies of this booklet.

4 This material will be considered a Workshop on "Who Cares for Our Children?" at the AGM of the Australian Family Association in Collaroy on 5-6 August [in The Hon Bronwyn Bishop's electorate].

5 If this material could go on your website as a (very) late submission, I venture to suggest this would be of value to the community, but in any case I hope Committee Members may be able to take its material into account in their Report. I suggest that if recent and powerful evidence about the risks and ill-effects of present policies is neglected, it will only hasten the time when the Report will be out of date.

Many thanks,
Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter S. Cook.

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY for the PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

Website: <http://www.empathicparenting.org>

First Three Years-- Next Three Generations

CSPCC, Box 700, 356 First St, Midland, Ontario L4R4P4
Phone (705)526-5647 Fax (705)526-0214 cspcc@look.ca

Sample letter as sent to all Members of Federal House of Representatives on May 17, 2006

Dear Mr,
House of Commons Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario, KIA) 0B6

Should Under 3s go to Daycare?

Three large daycare research projects begun in the 90s are now giving results that are serious cause for concern.

1. The NICHD-Early Childhood Research Network (US): "the amount of time through the first 4.5 years of life that a child spends away from his or her mother is a predictor of assertiveness, disobedience, and aggression."
2. The EPPE Study (Effective Provision of Preschool Education) (UK): "high levels of group care before the age of three (and particularly before the age of two) were associated with higher levels of anti-social behaviour at age three."
3. The FCCC Study (Families, Children and Child Care) (UK): "Such children tend to show higher levels of aggression or are inclined to become more withdrawn, compliant and sad."

Most recently the results of the Quebec Daycare Study as reported in the Montreal Gazette February 02, 2006 are consistent with these findings:

"... aggression among 2- to 4-year-olds increased by 24 percent in Quebec, compared with one percent in the rest of Canada."

The enclosed booklet gives background information regarding daycare for children under age three. Of special interest is the back cover which shows what many infant mental health professionals privately think is the best care for children up to age three.

I send these findings directly to you because public debate on the daycare issue has been seriously distorted by under-reporting of negative results.

Sincerely,

E.T. Barker M.D., D.Psych., FRCP(C)

President.

(for references see <http://empathicparenting.org/4studies/>)

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"...aggression among 2- to 4-year-olds increased by 24 percent in Quebec, compared to one percent in the rest of Canada." (4)

1. NICHD - Early Childcare Research Network (2003a). "Does Amount of Time Spent in Childcare Predict Socioemotional Adjustment During the Transition to Kindergarten?". *Child Development*, Vol. 74, No. 4, pp. 976-1005.

2. Madeleine Bunting July 8, 2004 <http://society.guardian.co.uk/children/story/0,1074,1256423,00.html>

3. Yvonne Roberts October 2, 2005 http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1583072,00.html

4. Quebec daycare bad for children. Kazi Stasina The Gazette, February 02, 2006

What Can We Learn from Quebec's Universal Childcare Program? C. D. Howe Institute http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/ebrief_25_english.pdf

See also: *Universal Childcare, Maternal Labour Supply and Family Well-Being*. Michael Baker, Jonathan Gruber, Kevin Milligan Working Paper 11832 <http://www.nber.org/papers/w11832> ©National Bureau of Economic Research, 1050 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02138 December 2005