

Baby Talk: Mark Discusses The Myths and Methods of Successful Child-Rearing.

by Mark Owens
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After a rather disturbing encounter with a 16 month-old toddler at work (which involved a teddy bear, a large mom and a pound of strawberry flavored yogurt... don't ask) I think it's time I discussed child care. As a person who has no children, doesn't plan on having any soon, and thinks the nicest term for them is "small drooling nameless bedwetters," I feel I'm the perfect expert to give advice on babies.

The first thing I should point out is that babies have only one major organ: a pair of lungs. The brain, heart and other vital organs (such as toenails) develop at the age of two. This is a proven scientific fact. Take a baby to a wedding, baptism or any other important function where at least 30 people are required to be very quiet. Soon (3 minutes and 12 seconds to be exact) the baby will start in with a howl that would

make Richard Simons' hair uncurl. For extra fun, bring two babies along. They usually work out a tag team system to lessen vocal chord strain. If you watch carefully after the ceremony you can see them give each other a "high five."

This brings up a question which many parents ask me:

At the last picnic I was at I noticed a mom trying to feed her toddler some baby food. The kid kept spitting it up while straining to grab his dad's steak and Stroh's. Who says babies don't know what they're doing?

"Mark, as an absolutely inexperienced person with people under 5 feet tall, what should I do to keep my baby from crying?" Aside from duct tape, here are a couple of suggestions:

The Missing Pieces

1. *Never ever look at a baby while it's in a carriage or crib. You know what happens when people do that; they make funny faces and noises at the little tyke. It's pretty sad. I mean, look at it*

faces at you and babbling "Ahhh! You're a big (fill in blank) aren't you? Goo Goo, Waka Waka!" Heck, I'd cry at that. Though there are times when I'm not sure if the baby is crying or laughing...

2. *Always leave an incredibly bright light on in the baby's room. It's a known fact that babies never cry during the day. They wait until it's dark (the antional average is 3:17 am) and are sure you are in your warm comfortable bed just drifting into a blissful slumber.*

3. *If the baby should cry, don't rock it. If you watch a parent with a baby, you'll notice that they rock the baby the same way they'd shake a can of paint. You'll also notice that the nameless bedwetter keeps crying. This is because he/she/it is no longer upset at whatever (and no one ever knows what that is), but*

is suffering from motion sickness. Stop rocking and give him a couple Dramamine.

My final, and most important point, is: **don't feed the baby traditional baby food!!** Go to a supermarket and look at this stuff. Most of it comes in small jars and resembles technicolor toxic waste. And the *names* they use: **strained beets & bacon; brocoli, cheese & tomato; strained chicken & carrot; and your favorite and mine, strained beef, liver and pineapples.**

You wouldn't eat it, your dog wouldn't eat it - heck, I don't think the Gerber Baby eats it.

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So that's it. Follow this advice and your child will grow up to be a big, strong, intelligent adult who will leave home, give up a full four year scholarship at Yale and move to California to take up board sailing. Ha Ha Ha! Just kidding. Actually he'll work at a McDonald's.

Happy Parenting.

Snorkin



No one move or frosty gets it on the "high" setting!



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