

Face Off

Parenting – Tracy G. Cassels, M.A.
Pathways #44, page 56



Talking Points

- ❖ Have you witnessed the insanity of “Mommy Wars”? A recent news item has been the want to bring these to an end. After all, shouldn't we be supporting each other as moms?
- ❖ Author Tracy Cassels brings up a good point: “What would it be if we decided to no longer talk about breastfeeding versus formula, sleep training, circumcision, spanking, and the many other things that seem to constitute the basis of these “mommy wars”? What would it be if we said “anything goes,” and that using formula is just as good as breastfeeding, regardless of the reason you used it? Or if spanking was just one of many ways a person could choose to discipline? It would be B.S.”
- ❖ It is very rare that these “choices” are actually choices. Many times, it is one event leading to another, which in the end resulted in feeding formula or one of the other hot topics. Mother’s get incredibly offended when their “choice” doesn’t end up being as good as they had hoped.
- ❖ By ending the “Mommy Wars” are we trying to say that all parenting acts are equally good? By agreeing that everything is equally good wouldn’t that significantly reduce the sharing of information between mothers? Would this also eliminate a family’s ability to make a true and informed choice?
- ❖ Doing a ton of research, considering your family’s particular situation and deciding that one thing is truly better than another is a true choice. The problem is when you don’t have a real choice.
- ❖ Cassels thinks there is a bigger problem out there: “The people that benefit from the way our society currently is—the government that doesn’t want to offer family-friendly policies, the businesses that don’t want to support their workers, the formula companies who want to make a profit over all else, the baby “experts” who don’t read a lick of research but want to sell their books anyway—have managed the great feat of making us think the real problem is with other moms. Instead of turning against those who benefit from reducing our choices and fighting for a better place to raise our kids, we have turned on each other even more.” (58)
- ❖ So now, we are the “bad guys”. We’re the ones who want to allow families to make real choices. We’re being accused of making people feel guilty.

- ❖ What if we redirected the “Mommy Wars” to our society that doesn’t support families?
- ❖ So now let me ask you, are “Mommy Wars” good for society?

Resources

Full references for each article are available at <http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/references.html>