

**❖ Topic #3: Social Norms vs. Natural Norms**

In cultures where nature is respected and woman adorned by their femininity, the rituals of our modern society are seen as detrimental to earth and life. With nature's intricate factors and delicate ecosystem, we often don't see the importance of something until it has been destroyed. Likewise, the social norms of our modern societies may negatively affect the delicate "ecosystems" of our growing children. From physical isolation of newborns, same-age grouping in schools, childhood spent indoors, and a tirade of other social norms that violate our natural norm, it seems evident that modern societies efforts to educate and raise our children has inadvertently disrupted their ability to learn and grow.

**Group Questions:**

1. What things might be lost when children are born, raised, and educated in a society where they are demanded to relinquish their personal truths as opposed to a community where they are encouraged to embrace their authentic nature?
2. What are some of the differences we might see when a baby is seen as whole and pure with nothing to fix or fear?
3. In attempts to teach children to adapt to the social norms, what natural abilities are stripped or looked at as unnecessary or negative?
4. How can we preserve the wholeness of nature, understanding that we are not only connected to nature, but that we ARE nature, amidst a culture that overvalues its rituals instead of its nature, or self?

**Resources**

Full references for each article are available at <http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/item/issue-48-winter-2015-article-references.html>