The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care, written by Benjamin Spock, is a manual on infant and child care first published in 1946, almost instantly, selling 500,000 copies in its first six months. By Spock's death in 1998, over 50 million copies of the book had been sold, making it the best-selling book of the twentieth century in America, aside from the Bible. As of 2011, the book had been translated into 39 languages.

Spock and his manual helped revolutionize child-rearing methods for the post-World War II generation. Mothers heavily relied on Spock’s advice and appreciated his friendly, reassuring tone. Spock emphasizes in his book that, above all, parents should have confidence in their abilities and trust their instincts. The famous first line of the book reads, “Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.”

HISTORY
Although Spock's reputation has changed over time, Spock continued to be a leading authority on child care until his death. In 1990, time, the widespread move to the suburbs broke up families, increasing parents' reliance on experts' advice over grandparents' advice. Spock's optimistic book reflects the hopefulness of the post-war period and society's focus on children. Because post-war parents wanted to give children more opportunities, parents became more concerned with providing the best for their children. At the same time, the pediatrician had proven to him that parents' instincts were usually best.

REVISED EDITIONS

During Spock’s lifetime, seven editions of his book were published. Several co-authors have helped revise the book since the fifth edition. Since Spock’s death in 1998, the book has been revised by Benjamin Spock, Benjamin and Parker, Steven (1998). Spock’s Baby and Child Care: Seventh Edition. New York City: Pocket Books. Each subsequent edition of the book brings medical information up-to-date. Other revisions have emerged to deal with contemporary social issues, such as daycare and gay parenting.

In the second edition, Spock emphasizes in several new chapters the importance of “firm but gentle” control of children. He warns against self-demand feeding, 1940s. Because parents were letting their baby dictate when he or she should be fed, some parents began indulging all of their child’s desires, resulting in unregulated sleep schedules and a loss of control for the parents. Spock clarifies in his manual that while parents should respect their children, they also must ask for respect in return. By the fourth edition, Spock adapts to society’s shifting ideas of gender equality, especially after the rise of the He warns against praising girls only on their appearance and notes the sexism present in a household where girls learn to do housework while boys play outside. Spock also continues to expand on the role of fathers and acknowledges that parents should have an equal share in child-rearing responsibilities, while also both having the right to work.

In the seventh edition, Spock endorses a low-fat, plant-based diet for children due to rising trends in obesity and Spock’s own switch to a macrobiotic diet after facing criticism for his previous beliefs.

REACTION

Within a year of being published, The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care had sold 750,000 copies, mostly by word-of-mouth advertising. Mothers appreciated Spock’s reassurance and empathy towards mothers, acknowledging how tiresome child care can be. He believed that much of a child’s personality and behavior would be shaped by this time, he did not yet feel certain enough of his professional abilities to accept the offer. Eventually, though, after several more years of giving talks and writing pamphlets distributed by the U.S. government, warned against “excessive” affection by parents for their children.

Spock was popularized by mentions in household magazines and famous television shows, such as Spock quickly became a household name in the 1950s and is frequently credited for helping to raise a generation of “Spock babies” in the post-war period. Mothers relied on his advice; by 1996, The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care was already selling a million copies each year.

By the mid-1980s, however, book sales quickly slowed due to Spock’s tarnished reputation after his publicized involvement in protests of the Vietnam War. Skepticism of his work increased, especially as academic researchers began to question the reliability of anecdotal evidence in his book.

By the late 1960s, Spock faced widespread criticism for condoning an overly permissive parenting style. Many commentators blamed Spock for helping to create the counterculture of the 1960s. Critics believed the current youth were rebellious and defiant because they had been brought up by Baby and Child Care. Spock, however, continued to defend himself, saying he had always believed in firm leadership by parents.

In the 1970s, with the rise of the women’s liberation movement, feminists began to publicly criticize Spock for the sexism apparent in his book. Spock was thus forced to confront his own ideas about gender roles and gender stereotyping. Spock also masked Freudian explanations of children’s behavior in plainspoken language to avoid offending his readers, making his book popular with parents who wanted to understand their children better.

Spock’s book helped revolutionize child care in the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to this, rigid schedules permeated pediatric care. Influential authors like behavioral psychiatrist, Watson, Holt, and other child care experts obsessed over rigidity because they believed that irregularities in feeding and bowel movements were causing the widespread diarrheal diseases seen among babies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Furthermore, these experts, whose ideas were embodied in Infant Care pamphlets distributed by the U.S. government, warned against “excessive” affection by parents for their children because it would prevent children from becoming spoiled or fussy, these experts recommended kissing children only on the forehead and limiting hugs or other displays of affection.
Parenting

Types

Adoptive | Alloparenting | Complex family | Coparenting | Foster care | Kommune 1 | LGBT | Matri(bo)al family | Noncustodial | Nuclear family | Orphaned | Shared | Single parent | Blended family | Surrogacy | In loco parentis

Theories - Areas


Styles

Attachment parenting | Concerted cultivation | Gatekeeper parent | Helicopter parent | Nurturant parenting | Slow parenting | Soccer mom | Strict father model | Taking Children Seriously | Work at home parent

- After-school activity
- Allowance
- Bedtime
- Child care
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often referred to simply as Baby and Child Care), written by Dr. Benjamin Spock, was first published on 14 July 1946, and is one of the biggest best sellers of all time. By 1998, it had sold more than 50 million copies. In its most general sense, discipline refers to systematic instruction given to a child. Wikipedia. The Young and the Restless minor characters – The following are characters from the American soap opera The Young and the Restless who are notable for their actions or relationships, but who do not warrant their own articles. Contents 1 Current Characters 1.1 Genevieve ... Wikipedia. The Last Puritan – A Memoir in the Form of a Novel was written by the American philosopher George Santayana. The groundbreaking American childcare manual urged parents to trust themselves, but was also accused of being the source of postwar 'permissiveness'. Spock also projects a seductive, aw-shucks pragmatism on every page of Baby and Child Care. He insists his is not the last word, that mothers and fathers always know best and that "natural loving care" is the only way to go. Spock is also profoundly American in outlook. "Your baby is born to be a reasonable, friendly human being," he writes, in words that could have been written by Thomas Jefferson or Benjamin Franklin. Later, reflecting Enlightenment thought, he would argue quite passionately that the growing child is fundamentally and naturally good, sensible, joyful and healthy.
Dr. Spock's book of baby care completely changed the way parents raise their children and is one of the best-selling non-fiction books of all time. With the aid of his wife, Jane, Spock spent several years writing his first and most famous book, The Common Book of Baby and Child Care. The fact that Spock wrote in a congenial manner and included humor made his revolutionary changes to childcare easier to accept. Spock advocated that fathers should play an active role in raising their children and that parents will not spoil their baby if they pick him up when he cries. The groundbreaking American childcare manual urged parents to trust themselves, but was also accused of being the source of postwar "permissiveness". Spock also projects a seductive, aw-shucks pragmatism on every page of Baby and Child Care. He insists his is not the last word, that mothers and fathers always know best and that "natural loving care" is the only way to go. Spock is also profoundly American in outlook. "Your baby is born to be a reasonable, friendly human being," he writes, in words that could have been written by Thomas Jefferson or Benjamin Franklin. Later, reflecting Enlightenment thought, he would argue quite passionately that the growing child is fundamentally and naturally good, sensible, joyful and healthy. The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care. Benjamin Spock M. D. 4.0 out of 5 stars 7. Paperback. $26.66. The Attachment Parenting Book: A Commonsense Guide to Understanding and Nurturing Your Baby. William Sears. Dr. Benjamin Spock was the most trusted and most famous pediatrician worldwide; his reassuring and commonsense advice shaped parenting practices for half a century. The author of eleven books, he was a political activist for causes that vitally affect children: disarmament, day care, schooling, housing, and medical care for all. Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care has been translated into thirty-nine languages and has sold more than fifty million copies worldwide since its first publication in 1946. Please visit DrSpock.com for more information.