

Baby Care Expert Says Parents Should Be Better Educated in Rearing Children

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—(AP)—The hero of the American nursery, Dr. Benjamin Spock, says the trouble with parents is they are not educated—to be parents, that is.

“Academic education instills in young women (and men too) that a career is more important than a family,” the widely known pediatrician says. “Young people graduate with an absorbing philosophy that all good is accomplished outside the home.”

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The author of the perennial best seller, “Baby and Child Care,” suggested in an interview:

“Why not connect nursery schools with high schools and colleges, making students aware of their primary role in life and getting them in the mood for it by everyday contact with children? As it is now the spirit of education tends to divorce them from the idea.”

Doctor Spock, a visiting professor at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, has just started a Sunday afternoon TV program for mothers.

“All knowledge,” he contends, “gets in the way of easy doing, one reason why it is difficult for a nurse, pediatrician or psychologist to become an easy going parent.

“A medical student friend of mine,” he relates, “told me



DR. BENJAMIN SPOCK
Expert on Child Care

she could not visualize happiness in a home with a lot of children. When I reminded her that some psychologists make child development their every day work, she said ‘oh, but they’re trying to accomplish something.’”

That is modern woman’s philosophy, he says, an impact left from higher learning.

Doctor Spock maintains there is no substitute for motherly love in the home and adds:

“The working mother might

find excuses for maintaining a career—more money, bigger money, bigger house and car, private schools for the youngsters—all things her children can do without in exchange for her devotion at home. But these are not the real reasons she works anyway. They’ve been schooled to work and it is emotionally essential to them.”

Even his own book which he likes to think of as a guide to people to help themselves is likely to become a buffer between Ma and Grandma, Spock says, and the grandparent who has her own good ideas is likely to get fed up with the word “Spock.”

It is still important to thwart spoiling, Spock says, and many working mothers spoil because they have a feeling of guilt.

“The wise working girl,” he says, “should not give up leisure time and recreation entirely to the children because she is away from them so much. It is better for her to relax and have fun so that later in life she will not expect too much from her children for the sacrifices she has made.”

Many mothers worry too, that theirs is an only child in this age of large families. But he says the only child “Will develop great leadership qualities and self-reliance if you give him a chance.”