The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care

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 sold, making it the best-selling book of the twentieth century in America, aside from the Bible.[1] As of 2011, the book had been translated into 39 languages.[2]

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.[3] Spock emphasizes in his book that, above all, parents should have confidence in their abilities and trust themselves.

"Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do."[4]

HISTORY
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In the 1970s, with the rise of the women's liberation movement, feminists began to publicly criticize Spock for the sexist philosophy apparent in his book. Spock was thus forced to confront his own ideas about gender roles and gender stereotyping.

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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, two more editions have been published.

In the second edition, Spock emphasizes in several new chapters the importance of “firm but gentle” control of children. He warns against praising girls only on their appearance and notes the sexism present in a household

In 1959, Spock's book helped revolutionize child care in the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to this, rigid schedules permeated pediatric care. Influential authors like behavioral psych infants and Child in 1928, and pediatrician Luther Emmett Holt, who wrote The Care and Feeding of Children: A Catechism for the Use of Mothers and Children's Nurses in 1894, told parents training at an early, specific age. Watson, Holt, and other child care experts continued over rigidly because they believed that irregularities in feeding and bowel 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 from becoming spoiled or fussy, these experts recommended kissing children only on the forehead and limiting hugs or other displays of affection

INTENT

As a practicing pediatrician in the 1930s, Spock noticed that prevailing methods in pediatric care seemed cruel and ignored the emotional needs of the child. He was common problems seen during practices like breastfeeding and toilet training, in order to give less arbitrary advice to mothers who came to his practice. He thus brought a pediatrician with a psychoanalytic background. Seeking effective ways to implement Freudian philosophy into child-rearing practices, Spock would try out his advice on his own children. In the 1960s, Spock adapted to society's shifting ideas of gender equality, especially after the rise of the 

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REVISED EDITIONS

Spock's reassuring advice gave parents the confidence to use their best judgment to raise their

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 appreciate and instead very empathetic towards mothers, acknowledging how tiresome child care can be. Although he believed that much of a child's personality and behavior parents with this large responsibility of raising a "good" child, like earlier child care experts had.

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 currently a war period. Mothers heavily 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 a academic researcher and relying too heavily on 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 argued that because they had been brought up by Baby and Child Care.

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Near the end of his life, Spock's changing ideas on nutrition were reflected in the seventh edition of his book, where he advocated a vegan diet. Spock's views, however, were criticized by some experts as likely to result in nutritional deficiencies for children unless carefully planned.

LEGACY

Although Spock's reputation has changed over time, Spock continued to be a leading authority on child care until his death. In 1989, Life magazine magazine named Spock one of the 100 most important

The New York Times noted that "babies do not arrive with owner's manuals... But for three generations of American parents, the next best thing was Baby and Child Care...
### Techniques
- Co-sleeping
- Homeschooling
- Latchkey kid
- Parent Management Training
- Play (date)
- Role model
- Spoiled child
- Television
- Toy (educational)

### Discipline
- Blanket training
- Corporal punishment in the home
- Curfew
- Grounding
- Tactical ignoring
- Time-out
- Child abandonment
- Child abuse
- Child labour
- Child neglect
- Cinderella effect
- Incest
- Narcissistic parent
- Parental abuse by children
- Parental alienation

### Abuse
- Child support
- Cost of raising a child
- Marriage
- Parental responsibility
- Deadbeat parent
- Paternity
- Disownment

### Legal and social aspects
- Child support
- Cost of raising a child
- Marriage
- Parental responsibility
- Deadbeat parent
- Paternity
- Disownment

### Experts
- Tanya Byron
- Rudolf Dreikurs
- David Elkind
- Jo Frost
- Haim Ginott
- Thomas Gordon
- Alan E. Kazdin
- Truby King
- Annette Lareau
- Penelope Leach
- Madeline Lefrancois
- William Sears
- B. F. Skinner
- Benjamin Spock
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 … Wikipedia. TheYoungandtheRestlessminorcharacters – 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 | Current Characters 1.1 Genevieve … Wikipedia. TheLastPuritan – 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.
This book is the 871st greatest Nonfiction book of all time as determined by thegreatestbooks.org. This page also displays the various versions (paperback, hardcover, audio) and prices for the book on Amazon.com. It has been translated into 39 languages, claimed by Channel 4 programme "Bringing Up Baby" to be second only to the Bible in non-fiction sales. Another source places the book as the seventh best-selling "non-fiction" book of all time. 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. No book published after 1957 has been a true reprint of the original book. Starting with Baby and Child Care (2nd ed.). New York: Pocket Books (1957), books have been coming out claiming to be new editions of the original book, but in reality they are different books, not the same book. Poor Dr. Spock has had to cater to the demands of various pressure groups who demanded revisions of his work. The best description is perhaps the one Spock himself chose for the title of the first edition of his book, "common sense. Trust yourself," he told young parents, "you know more than you think you do." His (first) wife, Jane, whom he divorced after 48 years of marriage, was inadequately recognized and poorly rewarded for her extensive contribution to the book.