



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

US study links child care to aggression and disobedience



"The more hours that toddlers spend in child care, the more likely they are to turn out aggressive, disobedient and defiant by the time they are in kindergarten, according to the largest and most authoritative study of child care and development ever conducted." So said Shankar Vedantam of The Washington Post.

According to researchers, this correlation held true regardless of whether the children came from rich or poor homes, were looked after by a relative, a nanny or at a centre, and whether they were girls or boys.

It remains unclear whether reducing child care would reduce the risk that a child will turn into a mean-spirited bully. And complicating matters further, good child care is associated with increased skills in intellectual ability such as language and memory, leading some academics to suggest that child care turns out children who are "smart and nasty."

The US government-sponsored research, which has tracked more than 1,300 children at 10 sites across the country since 1991, is bound to rekindle the debate over child care, a debate that resonates across every income group and every demographic: How should people balance work and family? And how should parents, especially mothers, resolve the demands that are placed on them to be both breadwinners and supermoms?

Children who spend more than 30 hours a week in child care were more likely to be described with terms such as "are more demanding, more noncompliant and they are more aggressive." One factor that is never mentioned is discipline. Just why children in child care turn out so aggressive and disobedient is not really that hard to work out. Modern disciplinary methods (or should we say the lack of them) leave the child very much its own boss. Limitations upon those in charge of children as to what they may do in order to curb a child's disobedience, further exacerbate the problem. The child is taught that what it wants, it gets if it kicks up a row about it. That sets it on the road to aggressiveness and disobedience. Parents, pressurised by modern child counsellors, and teachers curtailed in the measures open to them by recent Europe-inspired legislation, means that the trends started in child care continue in the home and school and society inherits another thug in a few years' time.

Anti-God, anti-Bible thinking is what lies behind the madness of modern parenting. The result will be an epidemic of disobedience and defiance amongst the next generations that is too terrifying to contemplate.

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein, Jeremiah 6:16. To think that all this is coming about as the result of measures taken by those who believe that they are advancing society by seeing the old ways of the Bible abolished.