

Dear Home Birth Families,

I recently read a passage (excerpted from the book 'Necessary Losses' by Judith Viorst), which I found very disturbing, but also very thought provoking:

*"A young boy lies in a hospital bed. He is frightened and in pain. Burns cover 40 percent of his small body. Someone has doused him with alcohol and then, unimaginably, has set him on fire. He cries for his mother. His mother has set him on fire. It doesn't seem to matter what kind of mother a child has lost, or how perilous it may be to dwell in her presence. It doesn't matter whether she hurts or hugs. Separation from mother is worse than being in her arms when the bombs are exploding. Separation from mother is sometimes worse than being with her when she is the bomb."*

This passage shows very poignantly how important a mother's presence is to her child - the child is bonded to only one mother, even if she is psychologically disturbed as in the above example. However, this passage also made me realise something very important - that if a child is to be disciplined, then it should primarily be done by the mother (with support and backup by the other significant adults). This is because the mother is the only person who fully understands and loves her child, and she is the only person whom the child truly needs and loves; she is the only person the child feels they cannot live without and whom the child will forgive more readily than anyone else.

On the news a few weeks ago, there was a piece describing research which has found a direct correlation between TV viewing and ADD in under two year olds. This was presumed to be due to the bright colours and rapidly changing images common to most modern TV programs. Although TV can be a godsend for many a busy parent (morning cartoons are about the only period during the day when I get to work on my computer), I feel that there are very few programs that are suitable for pre-school aged children - they are either too violent, fast paced and/or contain adult humour. Becoming a parent is a special occurrence, and not one that everyone can experience. It is a time to reevaluate our priorities, and hopefully realise how important, yet transient, this period is. Although some parents dispose of their TVs all together when they have children, the rest of us could perhaps think about spending less time on our other pursuits, and more time with our young ones. Thank you for your continued support of the association and its work.

*Anitra Carr*