

# Welcome March!

The Month for New Beginnings!

Here is an old idea about parenting that is still  
new in **2024**

See the cover of this **1997** book



**Parent Involvement Begins at Birth:  
Collaboration Between Parents and  
Teachers of Children in the Early Years**

# Book Description

Explaining that birth is the right time to begin fostering children's learning and development, **this book presents a three-part strategy to form a parent involvement program that will provide a population of students ready to learn and achieve as soon as they begin school.**

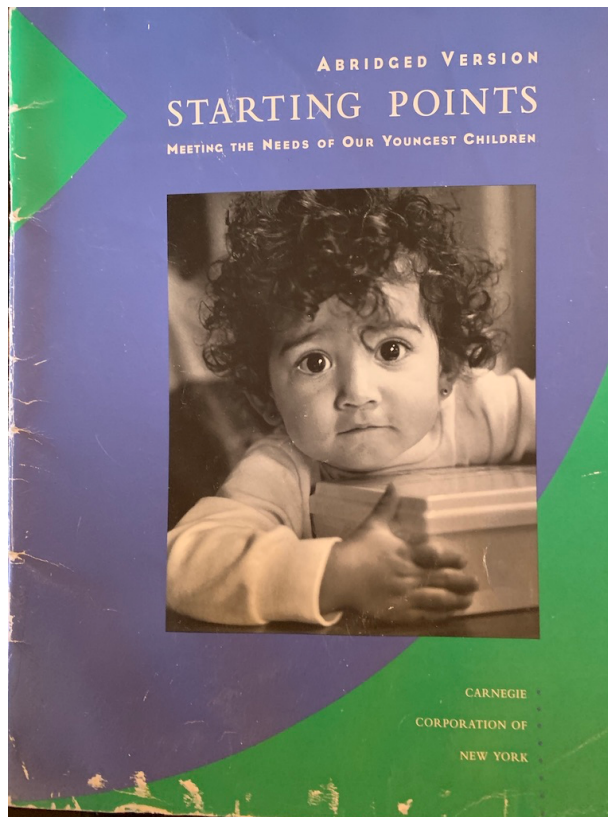
This landmark book that hit the **news** in 1997 and was meant to be our guide for this still-needed and important concept—“parent education/guidance for every parent as soon as their baby is born and even before.”

You know the author, and I know her too! Sally Goldberg, Ph.D.



Dr. Sally has been studying this topic since 1995 when the Carnegie Commission released their information from a multi-million dollar study about the **cause** of crime and violence.

This is the cover of the condensed report that inspired the nation and Sally and that **almost** changed the



world, but then it didn't ...at least not yet!

Here is the headline about that study from a 1995 newspaper:

**"Study: Millions of U.S. kids at risk of a bleak future."**

How many? Six million.

## Study: Millions of U.S. kids at risk of a bleak future

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The first three years of life are a dangerous time for millions of American children, their chances for healthy development jeopardized by a lack of medical care, poverty, violence and disintegrating families.

According to a three-year study released Tuesday by the Carnegie Corp., a New York philanthropy, as many as half the nation's 12 million infants and toddlers confront at least one risk factor that could harm their future.

"So this is a high-stakes game we are playing with our children, and hence with the future of our nation," said David A. Hamburg, Carnegie president.

The report is the work of a task force of experts from business, education, public health and government. Until his selection as secretary of education, Richard Riley was the organization's chairman.

"What could be more important than a decent start in life? All the rest depends on this founda-

This corporation had a mission to find out why we had so much crime and violence at the time,

**and then they did!**



While they thought it was going to be what happened to teens, young adults or even those in our prison system, much to their surprise, it turned out to be their first and most important early experiences.

“The first three years of life,” the report said, “lay the foundation for all that follows. Ideally this learning time should be spent with adults who offer nurturing love, protection, guidance, stimulation and support.”

“Instead,” they found out that “infants and toddlers” of their time “were society’s most neglected age group.”

“The risks are clearer than ever,” the report said. “An adverse environment can compromise a young child’s brain function and overall development related to cognitive, behavioral and physical difficulties.”

Next came this wonderful response from our government leadership at that time.

President Clinton organized a White House conference to ponder the news and glean all related information at that time. Here you see President Clinton in the East Room opening the program with a huge photo of a baby and saying, “In a day of talking about baby talk and how brains grow, Hilary and I offer parents simple child-rearing advice: Songs and storytelling fire up infants brainpower.”

This is my absolute favorite part.

**The president “compared the growing understanding of how parents can nurture babies’ intellectual and emotional growth to space exploration and said, “This may be the most important exploration of all.”**

As we watch the news today with shooting after shooting and a growing group called Goons, we see that teen time is too late. Let’s turn the sign around and STOP the violence before it starts.

**Baby talk: Clintons recommend**

Herald Wire Services  
WASHINGTON — In a day of “talking about baby talk” and how brains grow, President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday offered parents simple child-rearing advice: Songs and storytelling fire up infants’ brainpower.

The president, surrounded by researchers and child-care experts in the East Room, compared the growing understanding of how parents can nurture babies’ intellectual and emotional growth to space exploration.

“This may be the most exciting and important exploration of all,” he said.

In opening the daylong conference, Hillary Clinton said: “It may seem odd to hold a conference here at the White House devoted to talking about baby talk, but that discussion has never been more important.”

Among the findings heard from scientists Thursday is that the neurological foundations for

in conversation until the child turned 2 did long-lasting damage. In a study of 42 children, researchers found that by age 2, the differences among children were so great that those left behind could never catch up. The differences in academic achievement remained through primary school.

For the Clintons, two working parents, the research’s emphasis on early nurturing by parents raised a thorny question: Does science prove that mothers are better off staying at home?

Hillary Clinton faced the question head-on with help from Dr. Deborah Phillips, a child-care expert with the National Research Council.

“Some people argue that what the research really tells us is that women with very young children should not work outside the home, period,” she said.

But Phillips reassured her there was no evidence that placing young children in high-quality child care impinges on the parent-child bond or stops babies from thriving.

Furthermore, new studies are showing that spoken language has an astonishing impact on an infant’s brain development. In fact, some researchers say the number of words an infant hears each day is the single most important predictor of later intelligence, school success and social competence.

There is one catch — the words have to come from an attentive, engaged human being; radio and television do not work.

“We now know that neural connections are formed very early in life and that the infant’s brain is literally waiting for experiences to determine how connections are made,” said Dr. Patricia Kuhl, a neuroscientist at the University of Washington in Seattle and a key speaker at Thursday’s conference. “We didn’t realize until very recently how early this process begins,” she said. “For example, infants

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**A PAUSE:** President Clinton at child development conference.

**songs, stories to nurture kids**

have learned the sounds of their native language by the age of 6 months.”

The studies have social implications. One is that intervention programs such as Headstart may be too little too late, said Dr. Irving Lazar, a professor of special education at the Center for Research in Human Development at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

If educators hope to make a big difference, he said, they will need to develop programs for children from birth to 3.

The tone of voice in which a parent talks to a child makes a difference, said Dr. Betty Hart, a professor emeritus of human development at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Affirmative feedback is very important. A child who hears, “What did we do yesterday? What did we see?” will listen more to a parent than

**YOU must SEE**





It's time to  
**stop** doing things  
upside down and  
backwards

and start  
doing them **right**  
from the  
beginning.



*Every child is entitled to the finest experiences,  
and every parent should know how to provide them.  
There is not a moment to waste.*

**Year-round parenting classes at the Fountain Hills Community Center**

offered by Sally Goldberg, Ph.D., Professor of Education

[www.earlychildhoodnews.net](http://www.earlychildhoodnews.net)

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When we look at babies in the loving arms of their mothers, we see the proper foundation forming.

As we look at mothers and babies today, we see that they are our vehicles of prevention. Grandparents are in there too. We never did help those six million children before because we didn't know how, but we can help our new moms and grandparents today because we do know what to do. Little by little we can guide them skillfully through each step of the way.

- Birth to three
- Three to five
- Five to 10
- 11 to 20

One strong stage flows into the next. Each child of strength puts a STOP to one going awry. Become a “preventionist,” a crime and violence buster. It is a wonderful way to be, and the time to start is now.