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 been sold making it the best-selling book of the 20th century in America, aside from the Bible. As of 2011, the book had been translated into 39 languages.

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. Spock emphasizes in his book that, above all, parents should have confidence in their abilities and trust their instincts. The famous first line of the book reads, "Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do."

HISTORY

CHILD CARE BEFORE SPOCK
Spock's book helped revolutionize child care in the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to this, rigid schedules permeated pediatric care. Influential authors like behavioral psychoanalyst Dr. Benjamin Spock and pediatrician Dr. Robert Needlman, who wrote The Care and Feeding of Children: A Catechism for the Use of Mothers and Children's Nurses in 1894, told parents to follow strict routines for their children. However, Spock noticed that prevailing methods in pediatric care seemed cruel and ignored the emotional needs of the child. He was concerned with the emotional and social development of children, and his book provided guidance on how to balance the needs of parents and children.

Spock's book, The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care, was first published in 1946 with Pocket Books. It quickly became a bestseller and has since sold over 750,000 copies, mostly by word-of-mouth advertising. In 1996, The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care was already selling a million copies each year.

Spock's views were criticized by some experts as being too extreme; critics were concerned that a vegan diet could not provide all the necessary nutrients for a child's growth. However, Spock's views were lauded for writing with a friendly, reassuring tone and using conversational, easy-to-read language.

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Spock's optimistic book reflects the hopefulness of the post-war period and society's focus on children. Because post-war affluence helped parents give children more opportunities, parents became more concerned with providing the best for their children. At the same time, parents with this large responsibility of raising a "good" child, like earlier child care experts had.

Unlike leading child care experts prior to the 1940s, Spock supports flexibility in child-rearing, advising parents to treat each child as an individual. Drawing on his psychoanalytic training, he explains that babies at this age like to explore the world around them. He then suggests ways to arrange the house and prevent accidents with a "wandering baby." Spock emphasizes that ultimately, the parents' "natural loving care" for their children is most important. He reminds parents to have confidence in their abilities and to trust their common sense.

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 concerned with the emotional and social development of children, and his book provided guidance on how to balance the needs of parents and children. Spock emphasizes that ultimately, the parents' "natural loving care" for their children is most important. He reminds parents to have confidence in their abilities and to trust their common sense.

SYNOPSIS

The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care is arranged by topics corresponding to the child's age, ranging from infancy to teenage years. Drawn from his career as a practicing pediatrician with topics such as preparing for the baby, toilet training, school, illnesses, and "special problems" like 'separated parents' and 'the fatherless child'.

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REVISED EDITIONS

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.


Each subsequent edition of the book brings medical information up-to-date. Other revisions have emerged to deal with contemporary social issues, such as day care and the over-reliance on pediatricians. In the second edition, Spock emphasizes in several new chapters the importance of "firm but gentle" control of children. He warns against self-demand feeding, 1940s. Because parents were letting their baby dictate when he or she should be fed, some parents began indulging all of their child's desires, resulting in unregulated sleep schedules and a loss of control for the child.

Spock adapted to society's shifting ideas of gender equality, especially after the rise of the 1970s feminism movement. He wrote about the psychological reasons behind the rise of feminism and the role of mothers in society. Spock also acknowledged how tiresome child care can be.

In the seventh edition, Spock endorses a low-fat, plant-based diet for children due to rising trends in obesity and Spock's own switch to a macrobiotic diet after facing serious health issues.

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 approved of Spock's views, and instead were very empathetic towards mothers, acknowledging how tiresome child care can be. Spock has an entire chapter devoted to "The One-Year-Old," in which he notes the ways in which parents can encourage their one-year-old to become more independent.

Spock's views, however, were criticized by some experts as being too extreme; critics were concerned that a vegan diet could not provide all the necessary nutrients for a child's growth. However, Spock's views were lauded for writing with a friendly, reassuring tone and using conversational, easy-to-read language.

Spock was born in 1905 and died in 1998. He was lauded for writing with a friendly, reassuring tone and using conversational, easy-to-read language. His practice as a child care expert was to treat each child as an individual, drawing on his psychoanalytic training. Spock's views were criticized by some experts as being too extreme; critics were concerned that a vegan diet could not provide all the necessary nutrients for a child's growth. However, Spock's views were lauded for writing with a friendly, reassuring tone and using conversational, easy-to-read language.

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LEGACY

Spock's book helped revolutionize child care in the 1940s and 1950s. Prior to this, rigid schedules permeated pediatric care. Influential authors like behavioral psychoanalyst Dr. Benjamin Spock and pediatrician Dr. Robert Needlman, who wrote The Care and Feeding of Children: A Catechism for the Use of Mothers and Children's Nurses in 1894, told parents to follow strict routines for their children. However, Spock noticed that prevailing methods in pediatric care seemed cruel and ignored the emotional needs of the child. He was concerned with the emotional and social development of children, and his book provided guidance on how to balance the needs of parents and children.

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.

By the fourth edition, Spock adapts to society's shifting ideas of gender equality, especially after the rise of the 1970s feminism movement. He writes about the psychological reasons behind the rise of feminism and the role of mothers in society. Spock also acknowledges how tiresome child care can be.

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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 1 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 is a reprint of the One and Only Original book by Dr. Benjamin Spock on Baby and Child Care. Prior to this reprint, the original book had not been reprinted since 1957. Instead there have been many new books, all bearing Dr. Spock's name, but these have been considerably different books and usually much shorter. 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 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.