

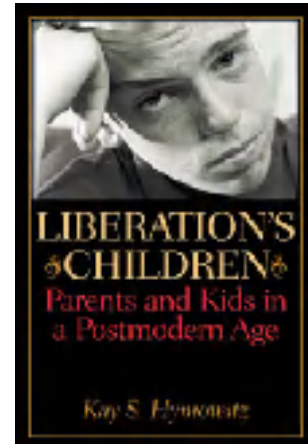
## Fear and Loathing at the Day-Care Center

*Liberation's Children* by Kay Hymowitz

Now, where did we leave off? Oh ye, with the radical tutelage of the some sources of society...

On this subject of the day-care – as one alternative for working parents – the matter of limited motherhood remains a question in terms of the ill-effects of the child or young folk. Kay goes on:

The day-care advocate, feminists, researchers, and sympathetic journalists who write the *having-it-all* script have always had one major public-relations problem: **reassuring people that long hours away from mothers would not harm young children.**



Even with this “problem”, the influences been “reassuring...that no harm would come to babies if their mothers left them for forty or fifty hours a week (or more).” In this effort is not the “edits” necessary to stave off any harm brought to child but, as well, the “suggestion that women themselves might suffer from long hours away from their offspring.” Drawing on the words of Gloria Steinem: “We’ve become the men we wanted to marry” – the critical problem is that women, by nature, still have a “mother’s heart”.

This *mother’s heart* can not be exterminated or eradicated. In this postmodern age, 60 percent of mothers with children less than one year old are in the labor force – compared with 37 percent in 1976. But to suggest that the “60 percent” are working conventional jobs would be grossly misleading; and the exceptions abound from cottage industries to limited, part-time work, etc. **More accurate to the impression of “working” is that only 39 percent of mothers of children under three, and only 43 percent with kids under six worked full-time in 2000.**

The *mother’s heart* remains steadfast in spite of the postmodern *cost of living* and aforementioned feminism that advocates the *having-it-all* fallacy. Kay continues with the citing from a 2000 public survey that found 62 percent of respondents would like policies making it easier for one parent to stay home during a child’s first years – as opposed to 30 percent who want policies improving the affordability and quality of day care.

## Fear and Loathing at the Day-Care Center

*Liberation's Children* by Kay Hymowitz

Distinction between day-care and the mother's heart is delineated in the context of "selfhood" and the soul. Yes, the day-care allure may be the cognitive development opportunities for the *young citizen* of the state, but as Kay describes:

Selfhood of the sort Americans have long prized, implies a personal history – with its unique places and people – and a distinctive way of viewing the world that evolves in large measure out of experience within a family and a home with its own character...The experience of selfhood finds continual reinforcement from family members who affirm the child as an individual like no other.

She concludes:

**Collective care, by its very definition, cannot do this...**

"Continual reinforcement" is an example of love; after all, if you believe in something or someone and you express that – or affirm it – than love must be present in some form, don't you think? This quality of family and home is beyond the "collective care" that claims to build the mind or mental capacity as a singular indication or measurement of maturity.

And in the midst of this "quality care" (of daycare), she adds: **"Quality' care is still a pale imitation of what young children can get from besotted families."**

So much more goes into the aspects of affirmation; yes, the young folk depend on family to "internalize the more requirements of his culture, make them part of his nature and identity, so that they feel as natural as breathing." Moral requirements are not altogether of the brain – but depend on the soul and, for some, the spirit...**When children are left to themselves, the "bourgeois conscience" is not developed – the consequence of a parentless or family-deprived life.**

In much more detail and obvious understanding, Kay continues on the woes of a *have-it-all* script so played out in the postmodern age. As history is often the best instructor, she draws upon the long known and understood relationship between child rearing and culture: **"how we raise children reflects the kind of society we are..."**

Even as young mothers and fathers must make difficult decisions toward the role of their lives as parents, the challenges remain ever present. She draws an end to this chapter with concern as to whether the "experts" and pundits will let them (parents) make such decisions...