

The following healthcare professionals and others agree with the concerns presented in this letter regarding *Preparation for Parenting* and *On Becoming BABYWISE*. They are looking forward to getting the Academy's feedback on this potentially harmful parenting program. Many of them would welcome the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the Academy.

Medical Doctors:

"I am very disturbed by what I have read about the Ezzo program. I believe that more children will be harmed than helped by the program."

Jon Ahrendsen, MD, FAAFP, Family Physician /Iowa
Co-Chair Iowa State Lactation Taskforce.

Roy E. Brown, MD, MPH, FAAP / New York
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University.

David Carr, MD / Florida
Pediatrician with 12 years experience.

"As a breast-feeding mother of 4 children and a practicing physician I am appalled by some of the 'medical facts' presented in the Ezzos' book that have no scientific basis and that totally undermine the mother-baby intuitive relationship. I tell my patients it's a piece of junk."

Margaret B. Christensen, MD / Texas
Obstetrics-Gynecology.

Jenny Clifford, MD, FAAP / Texas
Pediatrician.

Nicholas Cunningham, MD, Dr PH, FAAP / New York
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Public Health, Columbia University.

Robert G. Dillard, MD, FAAP / North Carolina
Professor of Pediatrics; Neonatologist; Breastfeeding Coordinator, NC Chapter of the AAP.

Marvin Eiger, MD, FAAP / New York
Associate Clinical Professor, Pediatrics, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; Co-Author, *The Complete Book of Breastfeeding*.

Paul M. Fleiss, MD, MPH / California
Pediatrician

Scott M. Gee, MD, FAAP / California

"I have spoken to families who have been misled by this program – Let's do something!"
Jay Gordon, MD, FAAP / California

"The degree of influence and magnitude of fear engendered by this program are amazing."
Beverly Hendrickson, MD, FAAP / California
Board Certified in Pediatrics, 20 years private practice.

Susan Kent, MD, FAAP / Texas
Pediatrician with the Austin Pediatric Education Program in Austin, Texas. Supervises Pediatric Residents in their outpatient clinic experience.

"A review of the GFI website provides confirmation that this group in fact opposes those breastfeeding practices generally regarded as optimal for successful lactation . . . Specifically, the practice of rigidly scheduled breastfeeding times for very young infants and the avoidance of night time feedings, even during the first months of life, contradicts the current state of knowledge of breastfeeding physiology . . . most health-care professionals knowledgeable about breastfeeding advocate that mothers of young breastfeeding infants should specifically be advised to breastfeed frequently and on demand to achieve optimal infant growth and long-term success in breastfeeding."

James L. Lukefahr, MD, FAAP / Texas
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Texas Medical Branch; member, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine; author of "Underlying Illness Associated with Failure to Thrive in Breastfed Infants," *Clinical Pediatrics* 1990; 29:468.

Lisa B. McKenna, MD, FAAP / Illinois

"Bizarre and dangerous! Any system that depends on absolutes and coercion is to be condemned."
Carl Muchnick, MD, FAAP / California

Anne Montgomery, MD, FAAP / Washington
Board certified Family Physician; Faculty Physician, Providence St. Peter Hospital Residency Program; Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine, University of Washington.

Jack Newman, MD, FRCPC / Canada

Ross Prochnow, MD, FAAP / Texas

"It is very appropriate for AAP to become active in the response to the potential threat to many babies and families."

Vincent Quintana, MD, FAAP / California
Primary Pediatrician, 15 years in practice.

Braden Richmond, MD / Alabama
Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Richard Rodriguez, MD / Florida
Pediatrician.

“If Ms. Terner’s quotations are correct, this is an extremely dangerous program and should be actively contradicted by the Academy and all pediatricians through whatever means, including the media. Send an alert to all AAP members immediately.”

Eric N. Rydland, MD, FAAP / Florida

Director, The Pediatric Wellness Center of South Florida

“This is probably the most dangerous program of teaching about babies and children that I have seen in my 25 years of being a pediatrician.”

William Sears, MD, FAAP, FRCPC / California

Pediatrician, Father of Eight, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, author of over 20 books on infant care and parenting.

Eugene M. Simpson, MD, FAAP / North Carolina

Division Director, Pediatrics, Forsyth Medical Hospital; Member of committee that reviewed GFI’s program and alerted hospital pediatric staff and local church to 11 claims not adequately supported by conventional medical practice.

Christina M. Smillie, MD, FAAP, IBCLC / Connecticut

Wally R. Smith, MD / Virginia

Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Virginia, Chair of the Division of Quality Health Care.

Arnold L. Tanis, MD, FAAP / Florida

Past President of the Florida chapter of the AAP.

“The information being disseminated by the Ezzos is among some of the most dangerous material I have ever seen. Most of their teachings are highly inaccurate and not based on any scientific principles. When followed by the average lay persons, it will surely cause harm to their infants and children. The spreading of this type of erroneous information must be stopped.”

Brenton A. Textor, DO / Florida

“There is absolutely no scientific basis for this program and several elements of it are potentially very dangerous, such as feeding by the clock and putting babies on their stomachs to sleep. Strict adherence could lead to serious health problems for the baby and every effort should be made to alert the public to this dangerous program.”

Marsden Wagner, MD, MSPH / Switzerland

Neonatologist, perinatal epidemiologist, former Director of Maternal-Child Health for the State of California, Director of Women’s and Children’s Health for fifteen years in the World Health Organization, author of over ninety scientific articles and five books, father of four.

Gregory White, MD / Illinois

Father of 11, grandfather of 45, great-grandfather of 1.

Nurses:

“Globally, this program, though appearing benign, is highly dangerous and if left without any other force to check its influence, will result in dead or damaged children. It is preventable. I know that on Lactnet, I have seen many notes from concerned LCs, MDs, and RNs from all over the world. This program needs prompt attention, and it is my fervent hope that the AAP will issue a statement warning unknowing and well-meaning parents from adhering to this potentially dangerous program.”

Kathleen Balcezak Bruce, BSN, IBCLC / Vermont

Co-Owner, and Co-Inventor of Lactnet, listserv to 1100 Medical/Lactation Professionals world-wide; Co-Owner Lactation Resources of Vermont, Inc.; twelve years experience with lactation; former Pediatric RN.

“I have been deeply concerned about the effect of the Ezzos’ program on the physical and psychological well being of mothers and babies since I first learned about it in early 1993. I have had mothers who say they are committed to breastfeeding switch to formula because they were convinced they were ‘milk insufficient’ when the baby wouldn’t follow the schedule. I have seen computer printouts of ‘The Schedule’ in the hospital room with parents trying to follow it with babies less than 24 hours old -- the baby left to cry in the bassinet because it was not yet ‘time to feed.’ I have read Preparation for Parenting, Editions 3 and 4, and On Becoming BABYWISE, and am incredulous that anyone would presume that these tiny human beings can be treated as robots and call it ‘God’s Way.’”

Jan Barger, RN, MA, IBCLC / Illinois

Lactation Consultant with Wheaton Pediatrics and The Breastfeeding Connection; President, International Lactation Consultants Association (ILCA) 1990-1992; Editor, *ILCA Globe* 1993-1996.

“The parenting style of the Ezzos’ does not factor the uniqueness of each parent-child relationship and of each child’s development and growth. Their philosophy of parenting is very controlling, rigid, and strict. Their methods encourage “cloned” behavior. As a mother of twins, I am most concerned about any parents of multiples following their parenting program.”

Virginia Brackett, RN, PNP, IBCLC / Illinois

Lactation Consultant with Parkside Obstetrics and North Shore Lactation Consultants, Inc., Treasurer of ILCA 1989-1993.

“In my 25 years of nursing, 21 years as a parent, and 10 years as a professional lactation consultant I have never met a group so totally brainwashed, defensive to the point of being secretive, and fearful of any outside influences on their parenting as the parents are that have attended this program. The only way I can describe this is “cultish.” Parents are frightened into obeying the dogmatic dictates of this program. If they deviate or follow a more relaxed parenting style that is responsive to their baby they are assured they will raise monstrous, demanding, EVIL children. As a Christian myself I find the proclamation that this program of parenting is ‘God’s word’ unspeakably arrogant.”

Jane A. Bradshaw, RN, BSN, IBCLC / Virginia

“It is essential that parents be informed of the hazards of the ‘BABYWISE’ program as the effects of neglect and lack of proper nursing (demand feeding) could affect the child’s physical health and growth/development.”

Shelly Campbell, CNM / Texas

Certified Nurse Midwife – Birth Center Practice.

Barbara Carter, BSN, IBCLC / North Carolina

Lactation Consultant at Forsyth Memorial Hospital on the Mother-Baby Unit.

Faith Cherry, LVN / Texas

Worked several years in a pediatric office.

Susan R. Contreras, BSN / California

Public Health Nurse.

Jeannette Crenshaw, RN, FACCE, IBCLC / Texas

Family Education Coordinator, Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

Arnetta Dailey, RN, IBCLC / Texas

Owner, The Parenting Center of Texas; Private Practice Lactation Consultant for past 12 years.

"I have contacted the GFI representatives regarding the published statistics in Preparation for Parenting. They were unable to substantiate their numbers with any scientific data."

Amie Delworth, RN / Ohio

ICU, OB Labor and Delivery nurse.

"After reading parts of the Ezzos' program and some of the horror stories of the way Ezzo babies are treated, the program seems to have been developed for people who seem inconvenienced by the needs of a baby and should never have had children."

Melissa Edwards, LPN / Florida

Works in a pediatric office.

"I am concerned that the Ezzos make blanket statements about attachment parenting and lactation physiology stating that there is no documentation. I keep a databank of over 1,200 articles related to the appropriateness of responsive parenting and lactation. I have yet to see a bibliography by the Ezzos that indicates infants will produce the behavior they outline when parented responsively. I have also not found the woman who develops postpartum depression as a result of breastfeeding."

Jeanne Fisher, MSN, RN, IBCLC / Texas

Evelyn Garcia, LPN / Florida

Works in a pediatric office.

Merry Goddard, LPN / Florida

Nurse manager in a pediatric office.

Mary Grove, RN, IBCLC / California

Maternal-Child Nurse, Lactation Consultant, Perinatal Instructor.

“The philosophy of feeding and parenting infants that is encouraged by Gary Ezzo has been detrimental for several families who have been patients of our hospital as well as at least two of our NICU nurses . . . Our Lactation Consultants have had calls from mothers who have adopted this philosophy—their milk supply is decreasing, their babies are not gaining weight appropriately . . . My concern is that Mr. Ezzo has no medical training yet presumes to teach ‘healthy’ feeding practices to families. He obviously has limited knowledge of the biospecificity of breastmilk, as well as limited understanding of normal infant development. One pediatrician who has privileges at our newborn nursery is encouraging mothers to read Ezzo’s books . . . These mothers are the very ones who call us several weeks later for feeding difficulties.”

Dani Hudspeth, BSN, RN, IBCLC / Texas

Lactation Consultant in NICU, NICU nurse.

Linda Kutner, BSN, IBCLC / North Carolina

President of ILCA, 1992-1994; Clinical Director of Breastfeeding Support Consultants (BSC).

Deanna Lockett, RN, ACCE, IBCLC / Texas

Michael Maxwell, LPN / Florida

Works in pediatric office.

Rebecca Mathews, RNP, MNSL, ACCE, IBCLC / California

Jeanie Ming, RN, CPNP / California

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in a multidisciplinary child abuse center, Treasurer of the California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, child abuse prevention advocate.

Karen Mitchell, RN, IBCLC / Alabama

Emmarie Moncerate, LPN / Florida

Works in pediatric office.

Teresa M Perrault, ARNP / Florida

Works in a pediatric office.

Jamie Rausch, RN, IBCLC / Illinois

Mary Riley Renard, RN, BSN, IBCLC

Jeanne Schneider, RN, IBCLC / Washington

Coordinator of the Breastfeeding Center at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center.

“ It is downright dangerous to impose such a strict regimen on babies; to have that associated with the Word of God is nothing less than abhorrent.”

Debbie Shinskie, RN, CES, IBCLC / Pennsylvania

Candy Sibly, RN, IBCLC / Illinois

Judy Smith, BSN, IBCLC / Illinois

Kathy Swift, MSN, RNC, IBCLC / Louisiana

Assistant Professor of Nursing, Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Gertrude L. Welsh, CNM, NP / Oregon

Certified Nurse Midwife in practice for 29 years, Lamaze Childbirth Educator, Clinical Preceptor and Educator for distance learning programs.

“The rigid scheduling of feedings and the ignoring of infant feeding cues is not good for either the breastfed or bottle fed baby, nor the young child who needs frequent meals and snacks. The program does not seem to take into account differences in individual metabolism, variations in growth rate, growth spurts, and infant temperament. This program seems to instruct parents to ignore infants’ needs for feeding, socialization, human contact and comfort. I urge all organizations concerned with child health to take a stand against this program.”

Laurie Wheeler, RNC, MN, IBCLC / Louisiana

Certified in Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing since 1985, ILCA Region 6 representative (USA), Louisiana Breastfeeding MediaWatch Coordinator.

“I believe that this plan applied to all ‘like thinking Christians’ can lead to some disturbed children and young adults and dysfunctional family units. . . structure and stability in one’s life is a good thing if not taken to EXTREMES, and certainly not rigidly applied to the neonate and infant. . . I have personally cared for several families in my community that adhered to this PLAN and only ONE infant did well out of 6-8 babies (one set of twins). Most were either very slow gainers or FTT and required formula supplements to reverse poor growth. . . Also, the infants are NOT allowed to sleep until they have PLAYED after being fed. ”

Ruthy Wilson, RN, BSN, IBCLC / Florida

Labor and Delivery, Newborn Nursery NICU, hospital based Lactation Consultant since 1991; BSN Director of Space Coast Lactation Consultants since 1989.

Book Authors:

“These parenting guides go well beyond the ‘well meaning but ill informed’ nature of many mass market titles. Following their advice is dangerous in the short and long term and may well result in an infant death!”

Kathleen G. Auerbach, PhD, IBCLC / Washington

PhD in medical sociology; Co-author of *Breastfeeding and Human Lactation*; Originating Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Human Lactation*; Lactation Consultant in private practice, Ferndale, Washington.

“I am well versed in the research on two areas which these publications address: 1) postpartum depression and anxiety and particularly the relationship of breastfeeding to these conditions (see review in the June 1996 issue of “Breastfeeding Abstracts”); and 2) the attachment relationship and the effect of responsive parenting on the infant’s development. I have yet to see one well-designed, controlled scientific research study which substantiates the claims which are made in these materials. Most of the research literature on these topics contradicts the claims made by these authors.”

Ann Dunnewold, PhD / Texas

Licensed Health Service Provider; Psychologist, Independent Practice; President, Postpartum Support International; Co-author, *Postpartum Survival Guide*; author, *Postpartum Emotional Disorders: Recognition and Treatment*.

Debra L. Evans, BA, Reproductive Health and Family Wellness / Texas

IBCLC: 1986-1992; ICEA CCE 1986-1994; Instructor, Health Education, University of Nebraska, 1984-1988; Childbirth Educator, 1974-1994; Author, 15 books including *The Complete Book on Childbirth* and *The Woman’s Complete Guide to Personal Health Care*.

Judith Lauwers, BA, IBCLC / Pennsylvania

Co-author of *Counseling the Nursing Mother*; Executive Director of BSC, Primary Author of the UNICEF 18 Hours Breastfeeding Management Course.

Deborah Shaw Lewis, MA / Georgia

MA in Early Childhood Education, Author of eight books for mothers and children, including *Mother in the Middle* and *Motherhood Stress*.

Dia L. Michels / Washington D.C.

Co-author of *Milk, Money, and Madness: the Culture and Politics of Breastfeeding*.

“Because Apple Tree Family Ministries teaches a different view of biblical parenting than that taught by the Ezzos, I have been overwhelmed with calls from Christians all over the country who are deeply distressed by the impact of the Ezzos’ program on babies, parents, families, friendships, and churches. I am grieved that pastors and other church leaders have not examined it more carefully before implementing it.”

Kathy F. Nesper, CCE / California

President, Apple Tree Family Ministries; Author of study guides in family life and childbirth education; Co-Creator of certification program for Christian Childbirth Educators.

“I find many of the statements in Preparation for Parenting and On Becoming BABYWISE not just abhorrent but also potentially dangerous to the emotional well being of both infants and mothers.”

Lois V. Nightingale, PhD / California

Director of Nightingale Counseling Center, Clinical Psychologist, Author.

Janice M. Riordan, EdD, RN, FAAN / Kansas

Associate Professor of Nursing, Wichita State University; Co-author of *Breastfeeding and Human Lactation*.

“As I travel and speak with health care providers all over the US, I hear many sad stories about mothers being unable to breastfeed because they are following the Ezzos’ parenting advice.”

Edith White, MEd / Massachusetts

Instructor of continuing education programs for health care providers for more than 20 years, has taught more than 15,000 health professionals how to support breastfeeding efforts, Co-Author of *The Breastfeeding Handbook*, spoke at the AAP meeting in 1992, an invited participant to the Surgeon General’s Workshop of Breastfeeding and Human Lactation, 1984.

Researchers:

“I maintain a web page at <http://www.prairienet.org/community/health/laleche/dettwyler.html> which includes an essay critical of the Ezzos’ approach to child care.”

Katherine A. Dettwyler, PhD / Texas

Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Nutrition, Texas A&M University; Expert on infant/child feeding practices, growth, and health; Author of many peer-reviewed journal articles on these topics; and Co-Editor of the book *Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives*.

“As a statistician, I took it upon myself to look up a few of the papers the Ezzos cite in Preparation for Parenting—they certainly do not say what the Ezzos imply.”

Steve Rein, PhD / Virginia

Assistant Professor, Statistics, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University; participated in *Preparation for Parenting* class and has read most recent edition of manual as well as all the Ezzos’ support materials at their website; wrote letter to church outlining problems with program and set it up on a webpage.

Lactation Consultants:

Margie Deutsch, MEd, IBCLC / California

Member of Child Abuse Prevention Council of Orange County Task Force Committee that reviewed *Preparation for Parenting*.

"I have seen a disturbing impact of this program both in my professional capacity and in the religious community."

Patricia C. Donohue-Carey, BS, ACCE, CLE / California

Perinatal Health Educator at a medical center with 3,000+ births per year, Community-Based Childbirth Educator, mother of two.

Judy M. Eastburn, BS, IBCLC / Texas

Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, LC in private practice, extensive work in Lactation Counseling.

Catherine Watson Genna, BS, IBCLC / New York

"Over the last three years I have worked with many families using parenting techniques endorsed by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo. Several large churches and numerous small churches present their programs as 'Bible studies' regularly in the Orlando area. Clients are referred to me by their pediatricians who have been unaware of the parenting techniques used. Complications I have seen directly caused by these programs include failure to thrive, severe weight loss, hospitalization, developmental delays, and parental indifference. I have documented numerous cases. Please consider this letter of concern carefully."

Debra Kearney, IBCLC / Florida

President, Florida Lactation Consultant Association; owner, The Precious Link Lactation Consulting Private Practice; Founder and Coordinator, Breastfeeding Education Network; Vice-Chairman, Central Florida Breastfeeding Task Force.

Linda Kingsley, IBCLC / California

"I have been following the growth of this curriculum for over 4 years now, and have also dialoged with the author [Gary Ezzo] as well as leaders and parents following the curriculum. I have been much dismayed by the willingness of these people to accept the teachings of Gary Ezzo, who has done no significant research on breastfeeding, SIDS, or much else that he teaches on, while ignoring the experts, even those who share their religious faith . . . I am not the only one to independently conclude that the author has a cult-like hold on many of the families, who can only parrot back the curriculum when challenged on or shown misinformation . . . The degree to which parents tune out in the name of discipline is troubling. . . . More than one mental health expert has noted that the withholding of food in this manner can lead to anorexia dysfunction later in life."

Lisa Marasco, BA, IBCLC / California

Owner, Expressly Yours Lactation Services.

"I have been concerned about the Ezzo philosophy of scheduled feedings since I was called upon to advise an LC/RN/LLLI leader who was attempting to work with a mother/baby pair influenced by Ezzo teachings about 10 years ago. The baby was FTT and if memory serves right, ended up hospitalized. When one of my graduate students suggested that she do her thesis on growth of scheduled versus demand-fed breastfed babies, I thought we might come to some resolution. The student made a proposal to the Ezzos, who listened but refused to cooperate. Needless to say, this lack of willingness to at least explore possibilities/search for some truth -- using a well designed study, left me even more concerned about the dangers of this growing movement."

Chele Marmet, BS, MA, IBCLC / California

Director, Lactation Institute; Conceptualized field of Lactation Consulting; created first training program and first degree for Lactation Consultants; Coordinator, UCLA Clinical Lactation Program—Department of Pediatrics (1985-1996); ILCA: Founder(1984), U.S. Delegate Board of Directors (1989-1993), Chair -- first conference (1985); Founder and President, Lactation Professionals -- Los Angeles; Founder and President, California Network for Breastfeeding.

Chan McDermott, MPA, AAHCC / Texas

Childbirth & Breastfeeding Educator and Doula.

"As a professional one of the problems I have encountered with parents trained in this parenting style is that they turn away from the medical community when the advice they receive is contradictory to the information the parenting series teaches. The risk they are putting themselves in can be great, especially if they develop problems and don't recognize the early warning signs of low weight gain that could lead to failure to thrive."

Denise Parker, BA, IBCLC / California

Lactation Consultant with 18 years of experience.

"I have been consulted by three families following the Preparation for Parenting program whose infants have been failure-to-thrive. The mothers were seeking information on lifestyle and diet changes rather than lactation physiology, in order to increase their milk supplies."

JoAnne W. Scott, MA, IBCLC / Virginia

Over 20 years experience working with breastfeeding families.

"I am deeply concerned about babies whose parents are taught to disregard their innate judgment and also doubt the skill of the health professionals who advise them. Parents are taught to ignore the normal physiological mechanics of breastfeeding. It is bad enough that this 'Plan' appeals to the satisfaction of an immature parenting wish that babies are no trouble, but when they add the specious endorsement of God it becomes dangerous to unsuspecting parents and babies. Since parents are likely to overly trust the Ezzos' unwise words, I sincerely hope a voice of reason from the AAP will provide a stronger foundation on which parents and pediatricians can rely."

Ellen Shell, MA, IBCLC / California

Director of Administration, Lactation Institute; Served on the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

Polly Sisk, RD, IBCLC / North Carolina

Anne Smith, BA, IBCLC / North Carolina

Lactation Consultant at Forsyth Memorial Hospital on the Mother-Baby Unit.

“I have worked with breastfeeding mothers who followed this program and am distressed with the concepts presented. This program is nothing more than coercion and control. I am enraged and sickened by the incorrect information on infant appetite and breastfeeding physiology being touted as ‘scientific.’”

Linda J. Smith, BSE, FACCE, IBCLC / Ohio

Lactation Consultant and Perinatal Educator.

Cindy Sparks, MS, RD, IBCLC / Indiana

Jimmy A. Stimpson, BA, IBCLC / North Carolina

“I have done extensive research on multi religious/cultural beliefs on breastfeeding—none of which agree with Preparation for Parenting. I worked with several babies, breast and bottle fed, with slow weight gain and feeding problems.”

Mechell Roberts Turner, BA, MEd, IBCLC, CCE / North Carolina

Mother of four, Author of “Mama’s Manna.”

Diane Wiessinger, MS, IBCLC / New York

Author, Common Sense Breastfeeding handouts; Private Practice since 1992.

Counselors:

“I have been working in the Pleasanton area to educate people of the dangers of this parenting approach. In addition to the concerns about lactation and the medical errors involved in the program, I have been concerned about the number of parents I have seen in my practice who present with anxiety and guilt in finding that the Ezzo programs are not working as they claim.”

David N. Day, PhD / California

Clinical Psychologist.

Tim Healy, MSRPT / California

Master’s in Psychology; Registered Physical Therapist, Pediatric Specialist; Infant-Child Development Specialist; wrote *Guiding the Child through Preteen Development* and several articles on decreasing stress in children including “Intervention Strategies in Children Prenatally Exposed to Drugs. A continuum—Birth through School Age.”

David L. Kattenhorn, PsyD, MFCC / California

Doctor of Psychology, Psychologist, 23 years of experience as a Therapist.

“I have grave concerns regarding the Ezzos’ parenting programs.”

Linda S. Mackin, BA, MS / California

MS in Clinical Counseling, 15 years clinical experience as a Family and Child Counselor, 5 years experience as a teacher and mentor to mothers through Mothers of preschoolers International (MOPS), mother of two.

“I can hardly keep up with the fall out of this program in my practice. By the time parents who are able to tear themselves away from these guidelines finally do so, the psychological and social damage is usually extensive. The guilt alone from separating and the disloyalty and social isolation and criticism from their church peers who are still following the program have had a significant impact on their following episodes of depression. A statement validating the absurdity of some of the claims and practices in this program by such a reputable organization as the American Academy of Pediatrics could have an additional healing and validating effect on these patients’ recovery.”

Sage Pattie, MA, MFCC / California

Marriage, Family, and Child Therapist.

“Concerns: Adversarial role between parents and child; Parents’ needs take priority over child’s needs; Demands for obedience interrupt normal developmental sequence; Opens door to physical abuse.”

Clifford L. Penner, PhD / California

Cinical Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Sexual Therapist, Educator and Co-Author of seven books on sexual adjustment.

“We have deep concerns about the Ezzos’ teachings on parenting. We receive calls regularly from parents who are suffering from damaging consequences in their children.”

Joyce J. Penner, MN, RN / California

Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychosomatic Disorders, Sexual Therapist, Educator and Co-Author of seven books on sexual adjustment.

"My dissertation is on cognitive development. The importance of demand feeding and empathetic, attuned responsiveness to infants is very clear in the research. I train clinicians—trainees and interns—MA and Ph.D. level and have for over sixteen years. I traveled for the state of California, Department of Mental Health, in all state hospitals and most school districts. The Ezzos are misinformed and dangerous."

Georgiana G. Rodiger, PhD, MFCC / California

Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology; Clinical director, Georgiana Rodiger Center; mother of five children; grandmother of five children.

"How sad at the very stage when infants are learning about trust that the parents are told to be controlling, unresponsive, and distant in regards to a child's cry for help. Such modeling by parents might also make it difficult for the child to later trust and hope in a God they cannot see."

Marvin Warman, MFCC / California

Marriage, family, and child therapist; ordained minister, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

Colleen Weeks, CCE / California

Certified Grief Counselor; Childbirth, Health and Sex Educator; C.L.A.S.S. Communicator; Teen Pregnancy Specialist; Co - chair of Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Council Task Force that reviewed *Preparation for Parenting*.

"As a Family Therapist, perinatal educator, and lactation consultant, I have grave concerns centered around each of my areas of expertise, relative to the Ezzos' programs. I'm disturbed to hear mothers laughingly recount the hours of their 'stubborn' babies' screams as the schedule is imposed; grieved to hear of their shock upon discovering serious weight-gain problems which are subsequently blamed on their own inadequacies rather than program flaws; distressed at what I--and colleagues--have noted to be depression and emotional withdrawal in one or both of the infant-mother dyad in some families following this program; frustrated to see parents resort to bottle-feeding simply to satisfy program requirements."

Nancy Williams, MA, MFCC, IBCLC, CCE / California

Additional People:

"I am greatly concerned about the damage use of these materials could cause! They are without foundation—medically, developmentally, and theologically."

Laurie M. Farquharson, BA / Florida

Graduate work in theology and education. Director of Christian Education (7 years) and Elementary Educator (4 years), Wekeva Presbyterian Church.

"There is no more controversial curriculum in Family Ministries today than the Ezzos' material. Though Gary Ezzo and I graduated from the same seminary and have both served as pastors in Family Ministry, I cannot support many of his conclusions from Scripture nor endorse his programs for parenting. Your review of the Preparation for Parenting material will greatly assist me in my own evaluation of the program and in answering questions I receive regularly from fellow ministers around the nation."

Doug Haag, MACE / California

Associate Pastor, Family Ministries at First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton CA. MACE from Talbot Theological Seminary.

Carla Herrera, MA / Florida

Works at pediatric practice that has seen several babies with severe problems whose parents were attempting to follow the Ezzo program.

"After 30 years in Early Childhood Education, I am alarmed that Mr. Ezzo has no knowledge of developmental needs and stages of young children. To him, compliance and control supersede respecting a child's feelings and temperament. His principles are in direct opposition to the nurture, trust, and sensory learning that must wire the neural circuitry of a young child's brain, especially the emotional center of the brain."

Marjorie R. Nelsen / Florida

Director and Founder of Partners In Learning, Inc., a program for parents of 3-5 year olds; 30 years of Early Childhood Experience; author, four early childhood books; Early childhood teacher, 19 years; Teacher of the year for 2400 teachers in 1987; National Christa McAuliffe Fellowship recipient, 1987.

"There is absolutely no research to back Ezzo's claims on child development."

Jan L. Parish, MEd / Florida

Masters in Early Childhood Education.

"Since writing several articles about the Ezzos' curriculum and making them available on my web site (<http://www.fix.net/~rprewett>) I have been inundated with responses from two types of parents: from those whose families have been hurt by the Ezzos' programs and from those who feel strongly that criticizing the Ezzos is tantamount to criticizing the Bible and God Himself. I feel that a medical review from the AAP is necessary in order for parents to be able to see through the rhetoric, identify the medical misinformation, and make a truly informed decision about these programs, thus avoiding the all-too-common problems."

Rebecca Prewett

Mother of six.

“Very concerned as an educator and teacher of parents regarding the information this program relays to parents.”

Nancy Rolfs, MEd / Florida

Masters in Early Childhood Education, consultant, preschool teacher, Adjunct Professor.

“As a lay breastfeeding support volunteer, I am appalled that ignorant and vulnerable parents are sacrificing their children’s physical and emotional well-being on the altar of convenience marketed by GFI. Cloaking this medical misinformation in the pretext of “God’s Way” is a reprehensible distortion of God’s nature, and profoundly repugnant to me as a Christian parent. It canonizes parental selfishness and the entire program’s approach has definite cultic overtones. Health care professionals need to be aware of these cultic aspects when trying to present reality to these brainwashed parents.”

Anna Swisher, MBA, BA / Texas

Homemaker, mother.

“I am very concerned about the results I see in children handled by parents who are following their [Ezzos’] program.”

Joyce Warman / California

Lecturer, parenting and marriage seminars; music teacher for 28 years.

-- Telephone numbers for contacts are available upon request --