

Question :

MOTHERS AND FATHERS

Except for the birthing process and breast feeding, do you think that a mother's position as a caregiver of an infant or child is biologically different from that of a father? Why? What examples can you provide that support your answer?

Answer :

I believe that an infant's relationship varies between that of a mother and father. Infants typically turn to their mother for basic needs such as when hungry or need consoling and when sick. I have noted that the only thing that fathers hold over mothers is that fathers are more playful. I myself remember always wanting to wrestle with my dad, do outdoor activities, and basically do something that required motion. I also always turned to my dad when I was scared because he provided that feeling of protection.

Family dynamics are key to the view infants hold of their parents. The role of a mother is always painted as the nurturer and that the father is the breadwinner. However, if roles were reversed, and the father would be home more time while the mother worked, then an infant would view the father as more of a nurturer. It all depends on the balance of one's family dynamic because if balanced then the infants will view them on a more equal scale. In addition, home environment will influence the relationship between the parents and child and their views on each other.

Responsiveness and attentiveness are essential in the development of the infant due to it leading to mutual understanding and love to form between parent and child (Berger, 2016, p. 138).

Though care of the infant is important, it is also important to not neglect the emotional attachments an infant makes with its guardian. It is critical for an infant to be played with, held, nurtured, and loved because it will influence the infant's health and overall wellbeing for the future. According to the textbook, "Synchrony is a coordinated, rapid, and smooth exchange of responses between a caregiver and an infant" (Berger, 2016, p. 137). It's essential to form that connection with the infant their first initial months following birth. This in a way sets the stage for how a child interacts with its guardian in the future.

Other factors do play a role in position and view an infant has with his guardians, such as the culture the infant is part of and the current society they belong in. The United States is recognized as a place in which mothers hold the title of being the primary nurturers for their children. Consequently, it is noted that infants hold a stronger bond with their mothers and the views they have are that of a nurturer and oftentimes also of a provider. Outside of the science and other factors, I must say that based on experience infants hold a different bond between their mother versus their father.

From conversation with my mother, she says that the emotional ties begin forming when the child begins forming in the womb. My mother lost my baby brother; he formed outside the uterus. Even though he was gone, she was depressed deeply and it was a very traumatic experience for her. I believe that she has not gotten over her loss which is why I believe that there exist different forms of attachment, be it emotional or spiritual.

Reference List

Berger, K. S. (2016). *Invitation to the life span* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.