

Raising Children DVD – Comments 2007

Government

The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister of Australia

"It is a wonderful resource and it's been enlivened by the participation of some well known figures and faces in Australian society, but also by the not-so-well-known, united by the common bond of parenthood and the common concern that we owe it to the new generations of Australians to give them the best possible start in life."

The Hon Mal Brough, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

"The work of your organisation has been visionary and will make a major contribution to improved parenting practices amongst the Australian community."

Raising Children Expert Review Panel for Rough Cut DVD, 20 April 2007

Dr. Johanna Watson

Research Manager, Centre for Parenting and Research, NSW Department of Community Services

It's very engaging and informative - such clever people you are to have done it so well.

I really enjoyed watching these (as did my children!). I think they provided a good balance between validating and empowering parents (as it is very respectful of them) while at the same time it reinforced the message that its OK to ask for help and sensible to seek for advice if you are unsure of anything.

I love the way you can watch the children grow and the parents become wiser (and in some cases more tired!) over time. I was quite blown away at how sensible, thoughtful and loving the parents were.

The messages were consistently about caring, positive parenting while encouraging children towards independent mastery of their environment in line with their developmental age.

It was ethnically quite diverse.

Professor Lesley Barclay

Chair, Health Services Development, Charles Darwin University

I really like the style of interspersing parents with some experts. The balance is about right and I think works very well. I love the balance between men and women in parenting and the contrasts and comments from both, very 'realistic' and works well.

Excellent balance between fathers and mothers and excellent use of varied female and male parents.

Excellent parental input and good examples of parent wisdom

Kay Gibbons

Head of Nutrition Services, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Honorary Senior Lecturer, Monash University. Honorary Fellow of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Fellow of the Dieticians Association of Australia

Overall the DVDs are enjoyable, informative and look very promising.

I love the variety of different parents and the development of their parenting styles over the sequences - they allow identification with different styles.

Professor Alan Hudson

Emeritus Professor, School of Health Sciences, RMIT University, Melbourne

I think the DVDs are great. The way so much of the DVD content is delivered by parents is very clever. Often parents will take so much more notice of what is said by another parent who has been there and done that.

I also liked the frequent mention of the value that family routines have in teaching new skills to children and help dealing with behaviour problems

Associate Professor Jill Sewell AM FRACP FAICD

Deputy Director of the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Associate Professor University of Melbourne, Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the RCN DVD. I understand that I am looking at the rough cut, but am very impressed overall by the look and the content.

A wide range of people are depicted, they appear very natural and unscripted, there is a good range of information, the commentator is low key but authoritative and uses clever segues into new topics, the experts are helpful rather than hierarchical.

Other Expert Advisors

Associate Professor June Wangman

Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, Raising Children Network (formerly Director of the NSW Centre for Parenting and Research)

You are to be congratulated, you and the team for a wonderful job, especially balancing the different perspectives. Its one thing to write this content, but it is very difficult to communicate this content in this way, to do something interactive that is fair to the real parenting experience while being consistent with the core content of the website.

It's real life, respectful of diversity, jargon free.

Professor Alan Hayes

Director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies

Terrifically done! There is a heck of a lot in there that gives good messages around what to do, what potentially could go wrong, and what you need to do if something goes wrong.

It's parents talking to parents which I think is a great strength. You get a really rich view of the diversity of experiences parents have.

Jane Svensson, PhD

Health Education Coordinator, Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick NSW

I watched both Newborn and Baby and you need to be congratulated on these terrific resources. They cover such a wealth of topics and being in such an interactive manner they keep you captivated as you watch them.

Parent Focus Testing, undertaken 15th - 22nd May 2007

Female coordinator of playgroup for disadvantaged and CALD parents, Mirrabooka, WA.

"Very exciting – is going to be a very useful resource – can't wait to see the final version and start showing it to the mothers who come in"

Single mother of two, 30 years, English second language, NSW

"Good to see other people's lives – made me feel like I was not alone with the problems and that everything will be OK"

First time mum, 39 years, Katherine, Northern Territory

"I think the DVD will increase parent's confidence - seeing the parent's stories on the DVD shows you that you're doing OK"

Defacto mother of two, 24 years, Western Suburbs of Sydney, NSW

"Very useful information given. I enjoyed watching it and learnt things I didn't know, like it's never too young to read to your baby"

Father of one, 43 years, Early Childhood Teacher, Sydney, NSW

"I think it will be great! Most of what was mentioned I know about, but I know that would not be the case with people who have little experience with children"

First time mother, 25 years, Northern Suburbs Sydney, NSW

"It was nice to have confirmation of a lot of the things I try to do and to learn a few new things from the other parents featured"

Mother of twins, 32 years, Brisbane, QLD

"Fantastic idea – loved the way it is presented mostly by real parents. I've worked with young children for years and still learnt something – the importance of modelling when and what to eat and when saying no, explain why!"

29 year-old couple, Central Coast, NSW

"We both think the DVD is great and will be a really valuable resource for new parents... We are expecting our second child in October so look forward to receiving the final edition"

Mother of three, 35 years, Wollongong, NSW

"I wish we had received this DVD when we had our first baby – so much good information; it would definitely have helped put me at ease during such a nerve racking time"

Mother of two and grandmother and part time carer of one, South Sydney, NSW.

"I think the DVD will really increase parents' confidence – which is really the most important thing. The different parenting styles illustrated were interesting."

Early childhood teacher and University Lecturer in Early Childhood teacher education, 30 years.

"Very well produced and edited. Great having real life scenarios and real life children – not all positive scenarios. Very useful for parents to see things modelled. Stories from parents and real life scenarios very powerful – good overlap between theory and practice"

Mother of one, second on the way, 37 years old, Inner west Sydney

"I really like the first hand stories and the familiar informal feel – made me feel like there are many others out there who go through the same struggles and joys that I do"

Single mother of one three-year old, 40 years, Southwest Sydney

"I loved it – lots of good easy to understand tips on parenting. Most of what I saw in the DVD I had to learn the hard way, I would have liked to have seen it two years ago"

Father of two, 40 years, Melbourne

"I liked that it wasn't expert heavy – the advice came from parents in the same boat"

Single mother of one, East Sydney

"I think the DVD will give reassurance, a sense of camaraderie and shared parenting insights that are these days perhaps lost as families and communities become more distant"

Mother of one and Early Childhood Worker, 28 years.

"Loved the focus on child's capacity to love, be kind, empathise etc – it is so important for parents to know this and often they do not"

Father of one, stay at home dad, Sydney

"This is a great idea and has been seriously missed to date. There's so much emphasis in books, classes and hospital on the pregnancy and birth and hardly any information on what to do when you get home and as your child grows up. This DVD will be a godsend"

First time dad, Katherine, Northern Territory

"From watching the DVD I learnt how mum and dad can share everything in care for the child"