



MotherTree ROOTS

"Standing for a woman's mother nature in birth and beyond!"

seasonal news

In this Issue:

Wild Babies Welcome!

The Business of Being Born

Birth Bucks

Separation Anxiety

Become a Doula

JANUARY 14, 2008 • VOLUME 6

Printer Friendly

Wild Babies Welcome! - Join Winter Tea Party on Jan 26

By Jesse Henderson, CD, LCCE



Solstice Babe

It smelled like wild babies. Not the powdered, fabric softener swaddled, binkied baby smell -- but the fresh, warm, earthy smell of a new life emerging from the salty depths of mystery.

Getting in touch with the wild lands of our souls is often what is so surprising and inspiring about birth--truly nothing can prepare us for the moment that we meet the new being that lands in our arms. We are forever changed. Transformed. We are ourselves born as mothers. Born as fathers.

And so a new year is born--our wildest dreams come alive...the potential of new our new life emerges. A chance to start anew. We invite you to come together as parents and friends to celebrate the little acorns that have sprouted into our lives this year. A chance to honor the new beings whose wildness still reminds us of all that is yet to be discovered in the world.

Please join us around the Mother Tree for our annual **Mother Tree Winter Tea Party**, Saturday, January 26th 1 to 4 pm at the West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 8470 SW Oleson Rd. Portland 97223. (Take 1-5 South, Exit Multnomah Blvd, West to Oleson Rd) Meet other new parents, see your doula and enjoy delicious treats. **Wild Babies Welcome! Please RSVP:** events@mothertreebirth.com

Upcoming Classes and Events

[click on event for details](#)

February

- Birthing From Within Series
- Comfort Massage for Labor Seminar
- Mother Tree Childbirth Series

March

- Birthing From Within Series
- Natural Pain Coping Techniques I

April

- Birthing From Within Series
- Natural Pain Coping Techniques II

May

- Birthing From Within Series
- Sit Baby Sit: Optimal Positioning for Birth

The Business of Being Born--Private Viewing Invite

UrbanMamas, Activistas, Mother Tree and the Zenana Spa and Wellness Center are sponsoring a screening of *The Business of Being Born*.

The Business of Being Born created and produced by Ricki Lake is an honest look at the affects that business and corporate structures have on women and their families, their choices and the community.

And of course there'll be an opportunity afterward to discuss the film and, hopefully, brainstorm ideas for next steps, if that makes sense. We'll definitely be discussing the film - and anything related - with some expert input. We've all got birth opinions, I just know it. Bring 'em with you.

Planning to come? Excellent! We'll be at Zenana Spa on Saturday, 1.26.08 @ 3 PM and again on Sunday 2.10.08 @ 12:30 PM (it's 85 minutes long). The cost is \$5/person; all proceeds will be donated to the Nursing Mothers Counsel of Oregon (a big thanks to urbanMamas for paying for the film and Zenana for donating the space!). And if you wish to donate more, no one will stop you!

RSVP to Business of Being Born Preview:

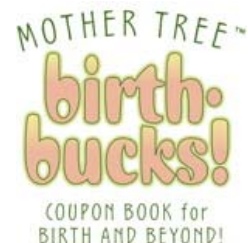
<http://urbanmamas.typepad.com/activistas/2008/01/the-business-of.html>

Donation of \$5 and proceeds go to: Nursing Mother's Counsel



Birth Bucks:

Enjoy hundreds of dollars in savings for over 30 local mama-baby services and products for only \$20. The perfect baby shower gift! Pre-order your copy today and save 50% and free shipping until Feb 14th. www.mothertreebirth.com/bbb.html



[return to top](#)

Separation Anxiety

By Elizabeth Pantley, Author of Gentle Baby Care

My baby is only happy when I'm within arm's reach. If I dare to leave the room, she cries as if I've left the country! I can't even so much as take a shower these days, let alone leave the house without her. My mother-in-law says it's because I've spoiled her. Is she right? Have I made her so clingy?

Nothing you've done has "made" your baby develop separation anxiety. It's a perfectly normal and important developmental adaptation. Nearly all children experience separation anxiety between the ages of seven and 18 months. Some have more intense reactions than others, and for some, the stage lasts longer than others, but almost all babies have it to some degree.

The development of separation anxiety demonstrates that your baby has formed a healthy, loving attachment to you. It is a beautiful sign that your baby associates pleasure, comfort, and security with your presence. It also indicates that your baby is developing intellectually (in other words, she's smart!) She has learned that she can have an effect on her world when she makes her needs known, and she doesn't have to passively accept a situation that makes her uncomfortable. She doesn't know enough about the world yet to understand that when you leave her you'll always come back. She also realizes that she is safest, happiest, and best cared for by you, so her reluctance to part makes perfect sense ? especially when viewed from a survival standpoint. Put another way: You are her source of nourishment, both physical and emotional; therefore, her attachment to you is her means of survival, and when she reaches a certain level of intellectual maturity, she realizes this.

This stage, like so many others in childhood, will pass. In time, your baby will learn that she can separate from you, that you will return, and that everything will be okay between those two points in time. Much of this learning is based on trust, which, just as for every human being young or old, takes time to build.

How do I know if my baby has separation anxiety?

Separation anxiety is pretty easy to spot, and you're probably reading this section because you've identified it in your baby. The following are behaviors typically demonstrated by a baby with normal separation anxiety:

- Clinginess
- Crying when a parent is out of sight
- Strong preference for only one parent
- Fear of strangers
- Waking at night crying for a parent
- Easily comforted in a parent's embrace

How you can help your baby with separation anxiety

- Allow your baby to be a baby. It's perfectly okay — even wonderful — for your baby to be so attached to you and for her to desire your constant companionship. Congratulations, Mommy or Daddy: It's evidence that the bond you've worked so hard to create is holding. So politely ignore those who tell you otherwise.

- Don't worry about spoiling her with your love, since quite the opposite will happen. The more that you meet her attachment needs during babyhood, the more confident and secure she will grow up to be.

- Minimize separations when possible. It's perfectly acceptable for now ? better, in fact ? to avoid those situations that would have you separate from your baby. All too soon, your baby will move past this phase and on to the next developmental milestone.

- Give your baby lessons in object permanence. As your baby learns that things continue to exist even when she can't see them, she'll feel better about letting you out of her sight. Games like peek-a-boo and hide-and-seek will help her understand this phenomenon.

- Practice with quick, safe separations. Throughout the day, create situations of brief separation. When you go into another room, whistle, sing, or talk to your baby so she knows you're still there, even though she can't see you.

- Don't sneak away when you have to leave her. It may seem easier than dealing with a tearful

Little Acorns

Alice Charlotte • 26-Jul

Elliot James • 28-Jul

Solomon Kane • 30-Jul

Nash Allasdair • 31-Jul

Joel • 1-Aug

Sabina • 8-Aug

Taj • 9-Aug

Arralyn • 11-Aug

Elijah Jerome • 19-Aug

Mia • 23-Aug

Elijah • 24-Aug

Annabell • 26-Aug

Baby Bell-Farris • 27-Aug

Elliot • 30-Aug

Giorgia Marissa • 5-Sep

Hazel • 5-Sep

Coco Mae • 12-Sep

Levi • 12-Sep

Kavya • 13-Sep

Adam • 21-Sep

Allison • 24-Sep

Elliot • 27-Sep

Penelope Maude • 4-Oct

Liona • 5-Oct

Baby Pike • 7-Oct

Cooper William • 19-Oct

Naomi • 23-Oct

Suchan • 26-Oct

Naomi • 29-Oct

Evan • 30-Oct

Baby Cone • 31-Oct

Baby Harrington • 1-Nov

Aiden and Gabriel • 2-Nov

goodbye, but it will just cause her constant worry that you're going to disappear without warning at any given moment. The result? Even more clinginess, and diminished trust in your relationship.

- Tell your baby what to expect. If you are going to the store and leaving her at home with Grandma, explain where you are going and tell her when you'll be back. Eventually, she'll come to understand your explanations.

- Don't rush the parting, but don't prolong it, either. Give your baby ample time to process your leave-taking, but don't drag it out and make it more painful for both of you.

- Express a positive attitude when leaving her. If you're off to work, or an evening out, leave with a smile. Your baby will absorb your emotions, so if you're nervous about leaving her, she'll be nervous as well. Your confidence will help alleviate her fears.

- Leave your baby with familiar people. If you must leave your baby with a new caregiver, try to arrange a few visits when you'll all be together before you leave the two of them alone for the first time.

- Invite distractions. If you're leaving your baby with a caregiver or relative, encourage that person to get your baby involved with playtime as you leave. Say a quick good-bye and let your baby be distracted by an interesting activity.

- Allow your baby the separation that she initiates. If she crawls off to another room, don't rush after her. Listen and peek, of course, to make sure that she's safe, but let her know it's fine for her to go off exploring on her own.

- Encourage her relationship with a special toy, if she seems to have one. These are called transitional objects or lovies. They can be a comfort to her when she's separated from you. Many babies adopt blankets or soft toys as loveys, holding them to ease any pain of separation. The lovey becomes a friend and represents security in the face of change.

- Don't take it personally. Many babies go through a stage of attaching themselves to one parent or the other. The other parent, as well as grandparents, siblings and friends can find this difficult to accept, but try to reassure them that it's just a temporary and normal phase of development and with a little time and gentle patience it will pass.

This article is an excerpt from Gentle Baby Care by Elizabeth Pantley. (McGraw-Hill, 2003)

Piper Ray • 9-Nov

Amara Jan • 14-Nov

Maya • 14-Nov

Kellan • 16-Nov

Hunter Jackson • 17-Nov

Winslow • 23-Nov

Graham • 30-Nov

Camille • 2-Dec

Mila Emmeline • 13-Dec

Dylan • 19-Dec

Shen Benjamin • 23-Dec

Caitlyn • 26-Dec

Hazel Neve • 28-Dec

Sophia • 2-Jan

Raj • 6-Jan



return to top