

Name of Technique: The Non-Crying Baby

Time Needed: 5 minutes Created by: Dr. Oscar Christensen

Description	<p>From a speech by Dr. Oscar Christensen printed in: Parent Survival: What Do Until the Kids Leave Home!, Dr. Oscar C. Christensen, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ</p> <p>“However different various cultures are, there is commonality in that the tradition for child-rearing held by each culture tends to produce the type of adult that can best survive in that culture. Or at least were thought to be able to survive, because another of the commonalities among various cultures is that by the time the practice is elevated to the status of tradition, the practice is often between 200 and 500 years out of date.</p> <p>I cite example the tribe of Indians in the Pacific Northwest that had a practice of raising non-crying babies. Babies were trained not to cry within two or three days after they were born. The actual technique is simplicity itself. By the second day of life anytime the baby cried, the mother would simply close off its nose and mouth until it passed out. It did not take the infant very long to figure out there was something wrong with crying, so they quit. It should also be pointed out that there was some side effects, the possibility of minimal brain damage, obviously, as well as another side effect which could be loosely called a “shift of symptoms”.</p> <p>When people of that group were in a situation that normally called for tears, they would express that emotion by gasping, choking, demonstrating a kind of strangulation behavior. The point of the story is simply that one could make a pretty good case that a non-crying baby has a survival need. Whether it would scare away the game, or disclose the hiding place to the enemy, one can only guess, but the point is that this practice was not outlawed by tribal Council until 1941, and was still known to be practiced surreptitiously in the mid-50s, easily 200 or 300 years after it had any relevance for survival. In our own cultural heritage we have many practices just as out of date, just as out of touch with the survival reality as the non-crying baby would be today (in 1977).</p>
-------------	---

<p>Materials Needed</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>How to Front Load</p>	<p>Do you ever get frustrated at how hard it is to yelling and screaming at your kids? They get upset with yourself when you find yourself resorting to rewards or punishment in an effort to calm the child with interrupting temper tantrum?</p> <p>The story of the non-crying baby may help to explain why it can be so difficult to change cultural parenting practices overnight</p>
<p>Concept Illustrated</p>	<p>Most of our parenting practices are deeply embedded in our cultural understanding of the world While they are passed down from generation to generation, the social context for their application may no longer be relevant in the current day culture.</p>
<p>Harvesting Process & Questions</p>	<p>Can you think of any parenting practices today that no longer serve the same purpose for which they were developed over 100 years ago have you attempted to adopt new approaches yourself Mr. Mark are you having difficulty in adapting to the new practices? What lessons does the story of the non-crying baby teach in terms of the process of change versus the desire for the need for maintaining tradition and stability? Are you</p>