

October 1, 1996

Dr. Peter Haiman
1090 Miller Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for sending me the material and for a most encouraging conversation. It is truly a relief to me to find professionals who support what many moms know: they have to be with their children. At least, that is how I feel.

I have a 4 year old and a 14 month old, as I told you. I am working at home doing editorial and research and fact-checking work for a small publishing company. My 4 year old goes to preschool, but my baby is still home and I want to keep it that way! My life is a juggling act, but I will do anything to keep my young children with me as much as possible. As I told you on the phone, I have done a bit of research into attachment etc. I guess it is a product of my job that I have to look into everything!

What I am especially interested in is how the mother influences and assists in the brain development of her child. My reason for being interested in this is that some people seem to think that if a baby is in a stimulating daycare situation it is actually intellectually beneficial to them, and the mother-child bond is not affected by being apart a few hours each day, especially if the environment is so stimulating for the child. The handout my friend sent me, that I got your name from, said: "During his presentation Dr. Haiman referred to material that found the development of the frontal lobes of the brain are more fully developed in the infant whose primary care provider was responsive."

I was wondering if I could get a copy of the study that this came from and talk to you about this a bit more? My idea is that since the mother is the most responsive person to the baby, she is the ideal one to promote the development of the frontal lobes, and that no daycare situation, however excellent, can substitute for this. Is there anything more specific you could send me on this particular area? I would then like to talk to you again after I study a bit more. I am very curious about how the study was done and how the frontal lobe development is measured etc.

I don't want to put you to a lot of trouble; I just was so excited when I talked to you I was not very specific! When I talked to Jay Belsky several years ago I felt he had a key to how attachment and daycare was viewed, but how the mother is linked to the brain development of her child is even more interesting to me. I really wished I lived in California and could come and meet you!

*Thank you again for your
encouragement & excellent work.
Most sincerely,*