

Letters



STAR LETTER Daddy is the hero

Your article *Daddy Daycare* (June, issue 118) was perfectly timed for my family. My husband was recently made redundant, and I've gone back to work – which I'm loving. However, it has been tough on my husband, who hates not being 'the breadwinner'. One day, after I had left *Junior* lying around, I was thrilled when my husband asked me if I had read the article. I could honestly tell him that I definitely regard him as the new hero in our home...

Heloise, by email

WIN OUR STAR LETTER PRIZE

Every issue, readers have a chance to win our Star Letter prize of the Scoop High Chair by Brother Max (worth £250). Suitable from six months, the Scoop has an innovative design that means your child is safely seated without the use of a harness (though one is supplied should you prefer to use one). Designed to grow with your child, it transforms from a cosy first feeding high chair to a comfortable chair suitable for children up to five years and is height-adjustable. Visit www.brothermax.com for more innovative products.



The breast of times...

Thank you for your article on extended breastfeeding *The Food Of Love* (May, issue 117), an issue that I feel deserves much more positive press. As a mother who has fed both my children up to the age of two, I identify completely with the author about the negativity of people's reactions to the idea of breastfeeding a child beyond six months. I find it ironic that we are happy to have displays of breastfeeding children, such as the *Madonna And Child*, but cannot accept it in reality.

I was happy to breastfeed my baby in public (if you are discreet, hardly anyone even realises what's happening) but once my children were approaching early toddlerhood, I felt I had to restrict the feeds to mornings and evenings in the privacy of my own home. The few friends I discussed it with were quite supportive, if a bit bemused. My mother's reaction has been very positive and my husband has been

completely understanding. The worst reactions I have had have actually been from members of the medical profession. One pharmacist said, when asked if a drug was compatible with breastfeeding, "Isn't it about time you stopped that?" And a health visitor weighing my firstborn at his six-month check-up expressed considerable surprise that my son was healthy and growing well, despite being breastfed.

The one reaction I often get that your article didn't mention was: "But what about teeth?" However much I assured them that feeding does not mean biting, they never seem convinced. In the end, I am happy that, for me and my children, breastfeeding beyond six months has provided a safety net of reliable, high-quality food through a period when nutrition can be a big worry. It should always be a personal decision that no mother is discouraged from making.

Amanda Barker, by email

...the worst of times

I read your feature *The Food Of Love* (May, issue 117) with interest. I breastfed both my children and hated every minute of it! I had so much milk and such demanding feeders that I was my pre-pregnancy weight at ten weeks post partum. I was exhausted and covered in sweat the minute my son latched on.

I found the responsibility of being the sole source of nutrition for my children terrifying. I felt trapped by what I thought was my duty to my children, and my poor husband was powerless to help.

My daughter, born two years later, couldn't cope with the force of my milk flow and would choke repeatedly during feeding. She then developed a milk allergy and would projectile vomit. It was not a scene of domestic bliss. And I haven't even mentioned teeth!

We all want to give our children the best possible start in life, but I think it is important to recognise that

The fruit foe

I really enjoyed your feature about children and the dentist *Open Wide* (April, issue 116). I found myself in exactly the same position as the mother in the article. I spent a fortune on fruit, fruit smoothies, fruit bars, apple juice and so on, thinking I was doing the right thing. However, I was told yesterday that my son now has to have four teeth out as the sugar and acid in all the good, healthy products have ruined his teeth. I was devastated.

I feel us mothers are bamboozled by propaganda without consideration for the individual child. I hope that dentists read your article and will advise their patients accordingly. I gave your article to our dentist and he is going to copy it and give it to other parents, so hopefully others will not find themselves in the same position as me.

Suzanne, by email



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