



# *APC - Canton*

*Attachment Parenting International*

**November 2006 Newsletter**

## *That Crazy Mother*

by Peggy O'Mara, Publisher/Editor, Mothering Magazine

You know her. She's that woman over there with the unkempt look, the disheveled hair, the strident voice. She's the one who's a little too involved with her child, a little too interfering. Maybe a bit too controlling. She's that crazy mother.

What is it about becoming a parent that turns a reasonably polite, discreet woman into a guerrilla warrior for her child? And why is it that no matter how righteous the cause, whenever we assert ourselves on behalf of our children we must be prepared to do battle with the crazy mother stereotype within ourselves and in the minds of others?

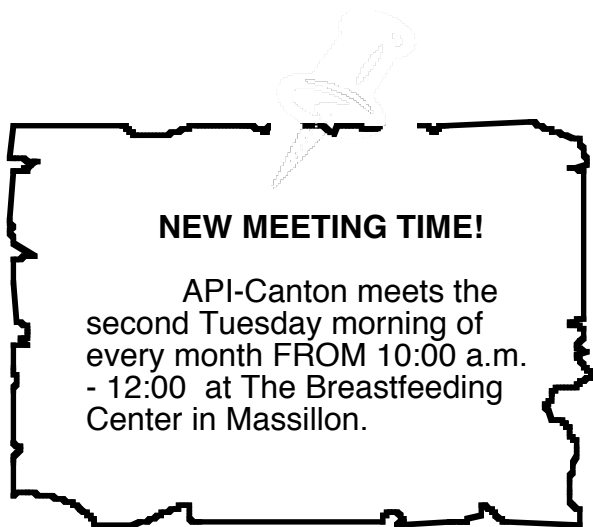
With the current prominence of the Children's Defense Fund and other groups that help children, child advocacy is coming of age. Our statement of purpose for the magazine includes "Mothering is ... a fierce advocate of the needs and rights of the child ... " As a magazine, we can maintain some distance from the issues of child advocacy that we cover, issues in which the child's side of the story often is not well understood or not reported. As parents, however, it takes real strength of character to be advocates for our children, especially at times when we are either embarrassed or angered by their behavior or at a loss to understand it.

Even when we don't understand the behavior of our children, they still deserve respect and advocacy. Our well-meaning but sometimes insensitive friends may confuse us and make us feel crazy when they set standards for our children's behavior or ask repeated intimate questions about their private habits.

Sometimes we find ourselves in social situations that require impossible compliance by our children or are not appropriate for their developmental stage. At these times we may appear crazy and overprotective to others when we shield our children from experiences we judge to be questionable.

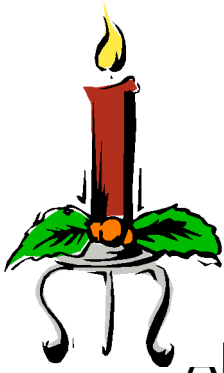
Those of us who have been led by our children into extended breastfeeding and family sleeping wonder how something that works so well can be considered so crazy, and yet we feel crazy when we talk about these things to those who don't understand. Sleep deprivation, concerns for social deviation, and fear of child ruination are the stuff of the new parent's initiation. We must do our own thing with our families in order to create the definitions of a new

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### NEW MEETING TIME!

API-Canton meets the second Tuesday morning of every month FROM 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 at The Breastfeeding Center in Massillon.



*Happy Holidays!!*

API-Canton thanks all of our families for their support of our group, our community, and our world by peacefully parenting their children all year long. We hope you have a safe, happy, and *peaceful* holiday!

## Membership Corner

### NOW HIRING!

We are looking for co-leaders to help lead meetings. Requirements include: membership to API, having parented AP with one child for at least one year, and attendance to prior API meetings. We are also in need of a group treasurer, activities coordinator, enrichment meetings leader, fundraising coordinator, and greeter. In order to hold a group position, you must be a member. Please see Traci or Amy if you are interested.

Membership is not required to attend our meetings but your yearly dues are important to promote and sustain the activities of our group and support the work of API's national headquarters. With a yearly \$35 membership fee you are not only insuring continued education and support for yourselves and other families within your community but you will receive four quarterly issues of API news, have access to our book and sling lending libraries, have access to a research database and become a part of an international network of parents, professionals, and organizations who support attachment parenting. If you are interested in making flexible payments, please see us after the meeting, or by phone or e-mail.

Thank you to the following families who are supporting API through membership:

The Singree Family  
 The Dunnerstick Family  
 The Keoshian Family  
 The Corey/Hall Family  
 The Kemp Family  
 The Mullane Family

(con't from p.1)

family. We are supposed to be crazy, to be different. As young adults we do things differently than our parents. As new families we do things unique to our union. Those who are willing to be unique in a culture are sometimes looked upon as crazy.

The needs of infants and toddlers are so obvious, and they are so innocent in their demands, that we feel confident responding to them even if others question us. As our children get older, however, we may not always understand their needs quite as easily, or will sometimes have to make decisions that are unpopular with our children, and may make us look crazy, even to them.

All parents face difficult decisions regarding infant feeding, newborn testing, circumcision, diapers, nightwaking, sleeping, vaccinations, and so forth. Some parents also face special medical situations that require the courage to insist on the integrity of the child's emotional experience in the face of necessary and sometimes lifesaving medical procedures.

Successful advocacy rests on holding a position without being positional. And while we don't always feel we can compromise where our children's needs are concerned, we can develop a capacity to insist on our position without insulting others. We can be persistent. And we can have faith in the best possible outcome, in the biggest possible picture for our child, and for our child's capabilities.

We join with others when we protect our children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says, among other things, that "All children's opinions shall be given careful consideration, and their best interests shall be protected."

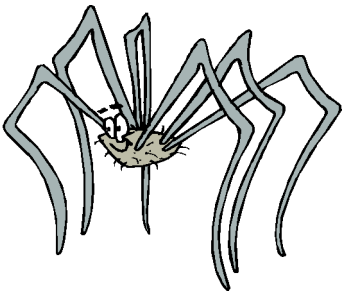
Being crazy is not just for moms. Crazy dads follow in the same tradition. We're crazy any time we take an unpopular position in a group or support someone or something just because of love. We're crazy any time we stick up for our children without any evidence. I can't always control the events of my children's lives, but now and then I can get all worked up over them with such righteousness that it's awesome. At those times I realize how fierce and irrational my willingness to defend my children is, how animal-like, how instinctual. One feels in this type of attachment part of the greater good.

It's good to be a little bit crazy. A little bit crazy about your child and willing to get crazy for him or her. I'm sure there's supposed to be at least one, maybe two people who think you are the greatest no matter what. Someone who rushes to defend you without knowing the whole story. Someone who sympathizes even after knowing it. Someone who is crazy about you. The Crazy Mother's Club is open to both men and women. You can tell the members by the red badge of courage they wear barely visible on the lapel. You can also tell them by a certain gleam in their eye. They are the parents who are willing to get crazy for love.

Excerpted from: Editorial, *Mothering Magazine*, No. 78, Spring 1996, Pages 6-7.

*Mothering Magazine*: (800) 984-8116, (505) 984-8116

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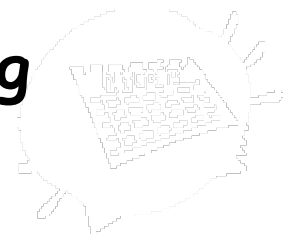


**PLEASE**  
remember to  
return any  
slings or

books that you have borrowed. Remember, slings are for RENT at \$3.00 per month. Both slings and books should be returned as soon as possible so that other members can borrow them.

**Mother's Helper Needed**

We no longer have a helper to assist with our children during meeting time. If you are aware of someone who may be able to fill this position, please contact Traci as soon as possible. In the meantime, please attend to your children during the discussion.

**Upcoming Events**

**There will be NO morning meeting in December and no more night meetings until January due to the upcoming holiday season.**