

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is in relation to the 'Prevention & Early intervention' topic.

Having been a parent I know the stress and concerns that can affect parents in relation to the raising of children but this is part and parcel of being a parent, no one said it would be easy!

We are currently living in a society of the quick fix and the one shot wonders that are meant to satisfy our desires or heal all manner of ills however this is not working and if one cares to look to the past and compare it to the present one can see how society is degrading & underlying this degradation is the belief that pills can resolve everything from health to mental illness.

Sure we all want things to be easy but life is not like that, it takes hard work and understanding of the issues at hand. One can decide on a course of action that indicates to them as a solution to a problem but if the results do not achieve the desired outcome then the solution does not work.

Having brought up a child to adulthood I know firsthand the impact it can have on ones life as a parent and also the child, my son was raised with clear communication on all subjects with understanding not controlling aspects. While my son was going through the teenage years in England he was offered many drugs including Heroin and as he knew he could talk to me about anything without any repercussions or hostility he felt safe in voicing these subjects. Sure it was confronting but without confronting issues how can they be resolved, it is no good trying to ignore the subjects one cannot confront especially when it comes to children and it certainly does not work by attempting to give children drugs to 'condition' them to how the parents or society want them to be.

Children are beautiful and innocent when they come into this world and it is a responsibility of the parents to ensure they stay innocent and beautiful as adults and by doing so the people they impact as adults will have a positive effect and to society as a whole, is that not we are all after?

I do not want to see children in a zombie state by administering drugs to them all because they are rowdy or do not fit into a box therefore there must be something mentally wrong with them, let's not lose sight that they are children and we have also been through childhood, think about it for a minute... When I was a kid would I have liked to be put on drugs with all the bad side effect they have? Absolutely not! Was it easy at times? No way... but I could talk to my parents on any subject and that relieved the pain & suffering for me and them far better than any drug.

Parents need to become more active with their children as they have so much vitality for life and boundless energy that the parents needs to respond to, not shoving a pill into them, putting them in front of a TV or games console for hours on end. Again look into the past... how did parents manage? There was no Internet, smart phones or games consoles, children were outside being active then coming home content and happy! All naturally achieved.

To see what is intended to be done with young children is of concern to me... the screening of children for so called 'Mental illness' between the ages of 0 to 3 years, lets ask the question why? Would you as a parent put your child on drugs? How can one take anything artificial to resolve something, you cannot... it does not resolve, it may be masked but the underlying cause is not resolved and that is all that drugs do in any format...they mask the real problem!

The facts indicate clearly that drugs in any format are not the solution they are the problem!

It is obscene to see that children 0-3 years of age with symptoms as irregular feeding, difficulty sleeping, whining, crying, temper tantrums, shyness, sleeping with the light on and hyperactivity will be labelled as having a psychiatric disorder. I went through all these as a kid... no mental illness here just the stages of growing up.

I request that this proposal is rejected, it too ludicrous to even consider the implementation of such a system.

Thank you for your time.

Regards
Peter Baker