



Handout 1

Commonly held beliefs about babies and children

Girls are better behaved than boys.

Little babies just eat and sleep and not much else.

When you leave your child you should slip away so they don't get upset.

Tantrums are about getting control or getting attention.

Children shouldn't play with pretend guns.

Good babies don't cry.

Only girls cry.

If children engage in rough play they will turn out to be aggressive.

Talking to babies isn't important as they can't understand you or talk back.

If you cuddle your child too much they will grow up soft and not be independent.

Learning begins at school.

Babies can't remember - so it doesn't matter what they see or hear.

A good child never has tantrums.

It's worrying when children's play has angry talk or fighting.

The more independent a child is, the better they will get on at school.

Children play on their own or with other children; parents don't need to get involved.

Play is just something that children do, it's not that important.