

PARENTING IN A CHANGING WORLD

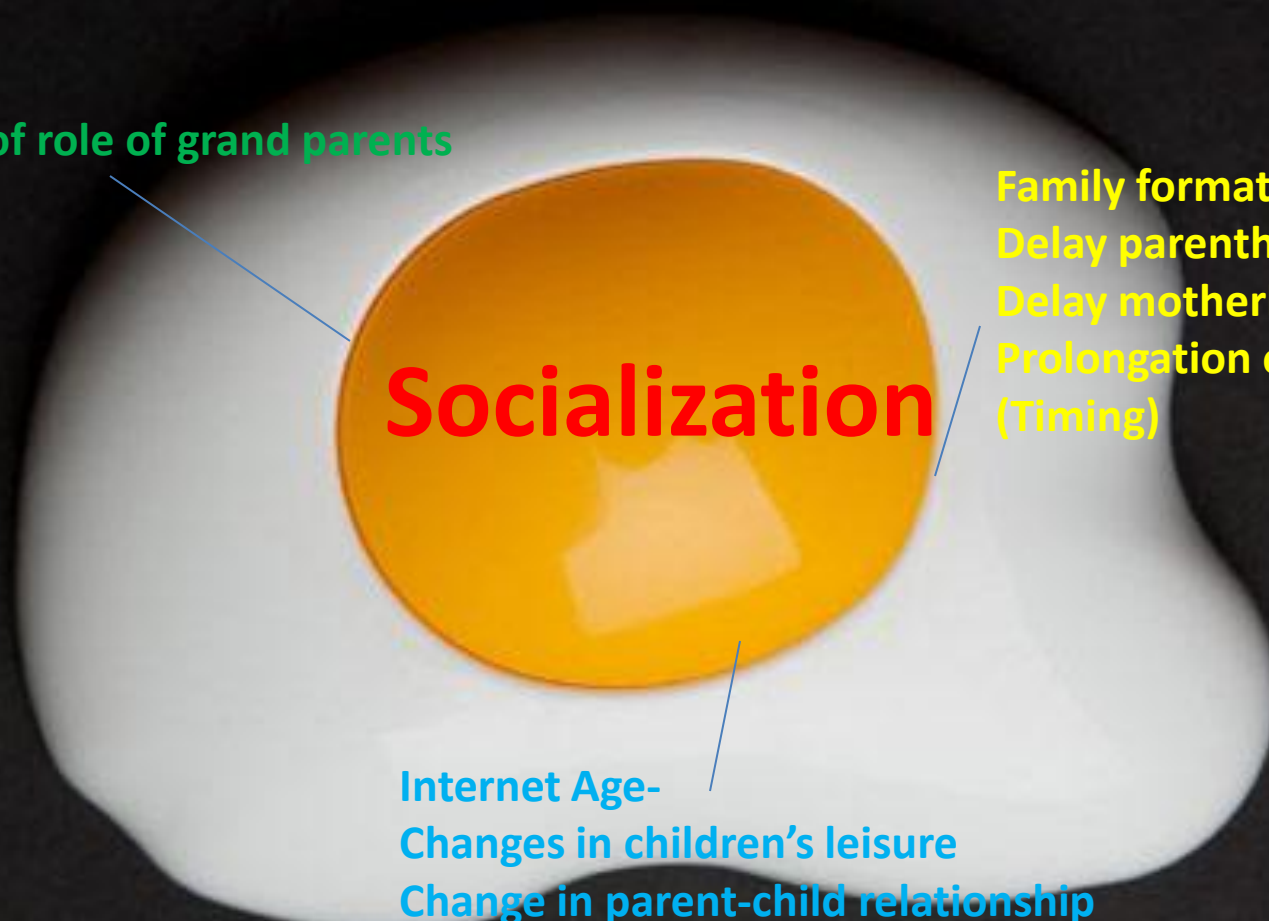
A conceptual image featuring a globe of the Earth. A computer keyboard is superimposed over the globe, appearing to wrap around it. A computer mouse is positioned in the foreground, with its cord looping around the globe. The background is a light blue gradient.

Charles Ng

Christian Family Service Centre

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CHANGES RELATING TO PARENTING



Socialization

**Strengthening of role of grand parents
(Role)**

**Family formation -
Delay parenthood
Delay motherhood
Prolongation of childlessness
(Timing)**

**Internet Age-
Changes in children's leisure
Change in parent-child relationship
Individualized society is made
Play, supervision and communication
(Culture and Environment)**

From Good babies to bad mothers: multiplicity, choice and the burden of interpretation

By Dr. Kelly Davis, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships

- **Habit Training** and **Socializing Discipline**
- Kinship and expert advice in the **process of mothering**
- Qualitative study to **mother-daughter pairs** in Scotland
- White, middle-class, well-educated and non-religious
- Review professionally published childrearing literature
- **3 cohorts** : 1945-1960; 1961-1980; 1990-2004



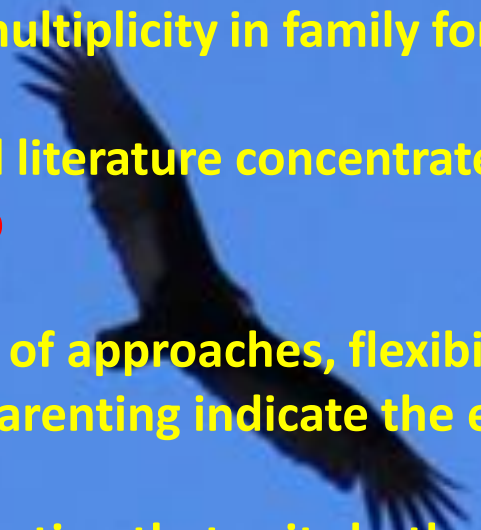
First Cohort: adult-like management 1945-1960

- Post-war anxiety
- Mothers expected babies to follow routine
- Child should fit into social convention of adult world
- Spoiling was avoided by instilling obedience
- No 'bad mother' concept
- Good baby is non-demanding, placid and content

Second Cohort: controlled flexibility 1961-1980

- **Increasing flexibility in childrearing**
- Experts paid increasing attention to **child's individual character**
- "Timing" and "**readiness** concepts were advocated
- Anxiety over being a '**bad mother**' was expressed
- In socializing discipline, expert stressed children's emotional and psychological stability
- **Love** became a **reinforcement** for the **mother-child relationship**

Third Cohort: happy individuals 1990-2004

- Increasing multiplicity in family forms and ideologies
 - Professional literature concentrated on **quality of parent-child relationship**
 - A multitude of approaches, flexibility and **'shopping around'** related to parenting indicate the extent of choice
 - Optimum routine that suits both mother and child with least amount of stress
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- A silhouette of a bird, possibly an eagle or hawk, is shown in flight against a solid blue background. The bird is positioned diagonally across the center of the slide, with its wings spread wide and its tail feathers visible. The bird's head is turned slightly to the left.



Third Cohort: happy individuals 1990-2004

- Women's references to **'feeling like a bad mother'** often stemmed from the dissonance between the **approach a mother wanted** to take and which **method they had to employ**
- Narratives on socializing discipline focused on an interaction and reflective process
- Compared to older cohorts, the **children had much more influence** in the disciplining process
- **More references to letting children** 'have a say' or **'spreading their wings'**. Meant to build up child's self-esteem, ensuring they are 'kind', 'generous' and 'open-minded'

The research tells us.....

- The narrative **shift** on **mothers' expectation** and the **intensity** of mothering
- **Changing expert discourses** about the **form and goal** of children's **socialization**
- The mothers' notions mirroring professional opinions
- In each successive time period, **increasing possibilities in child rearing practices and methods**

Last but not the least.....

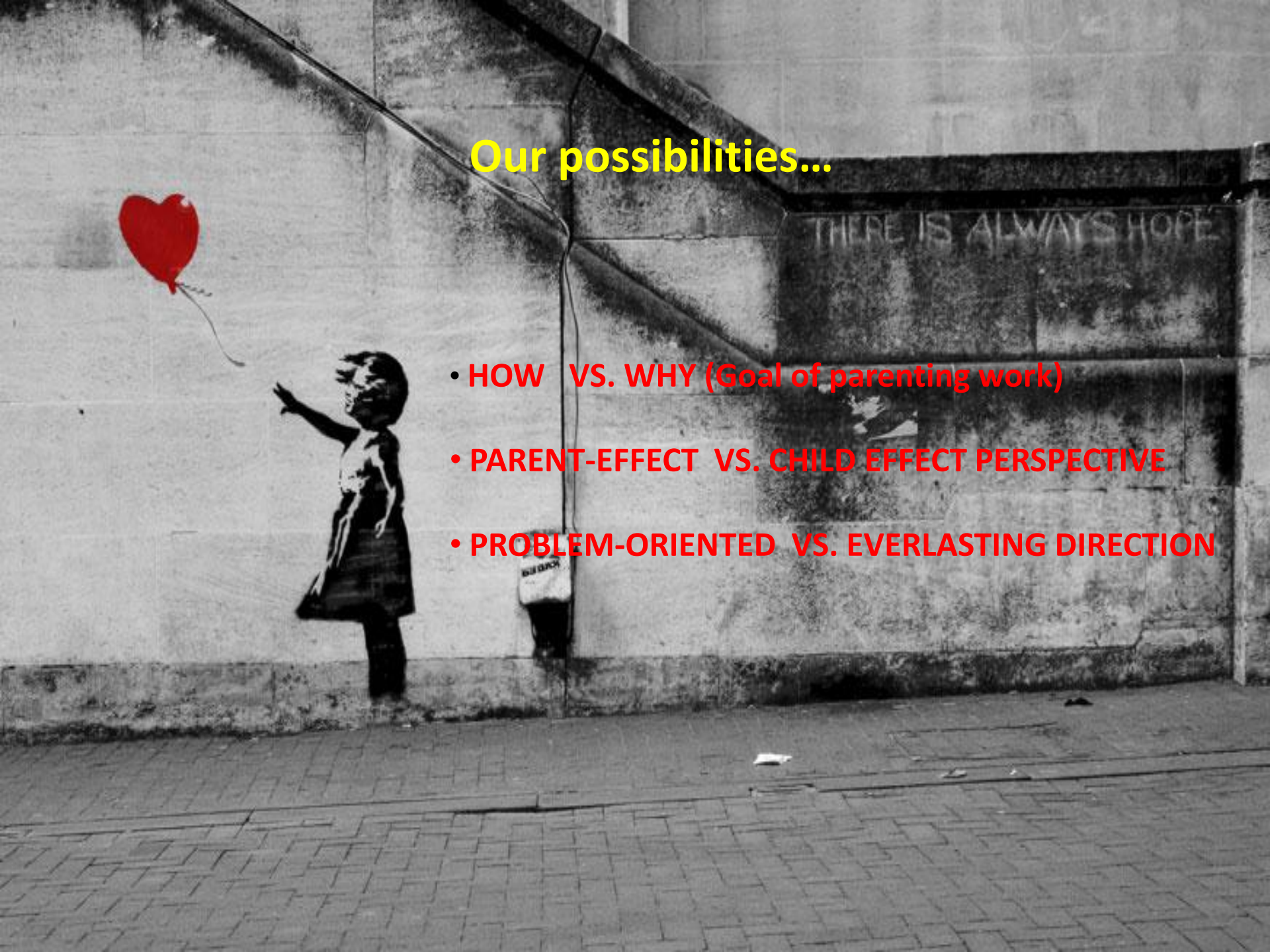
- From **demanding children** to **demanding herself(mothers)**
- Seeking more and **more advice but** was often **conflicting**
- **Children had much more influence** in the disciplining process



BE AWARE OF
GLOBAL IN THE LOCAL
??????

Our possibilities...

- **HOW VS. WHY (Goal of parenting work)**
- **PARENT-EFFECT VS. CHILD EFFECT PERSPECTIVE**
- **PROBLEM-ORIENTED VS. EVERLASTING DIRECTION**



THANK YOU!

