

Original Material:

The extended family is now rare in contemporary society, and with its demise the new parent has lost the wisdom and daily support of older, more experienced family members. Furthermore, many parents are not as well equipped for parenthood as were their parents before them, since over the years most children have been given less responsibility in helping to care for younger siblings.

—From: Edward F. Zigler, "The Unmet Needs of America's Children," *Children Today* 5.3 (1976): 42.

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Today's society and shifting patterns of social order may dictate, then, a climate for abuse. Edward Zigler argues that many parents are just not equipped today for parenthood (42). He insists that the "extended family" with several generations under one roof no longer exists and parents, who have little experience and no wise adults around, are therefore ill equipped to handle their duties toward family members (Zigler 42). In truth, a family such as that portrayed by the Waltons on television seldom exists today with grandparents, parents, and many children all living together under one roof.

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Today's society and shifting patterns of social order may dictate, then, a climate for abuse. Many parents are just not equipped today for parenthood. For instance, the extended family is rare in contemporary society, and because of its disappearance new parents have lost the wisdom and daily support of the wise grandparents. In truth, a family such as that portrayed by the Waltons on television seldom exists today with grandparents, parents, and many children all living together under one roof. Therefore, today's young parents are not well equipped because as children they were given less responsibility in helping care for younger brothers and sisters.

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Too many parents are not equipped today for parenthood. The extended family with three or more generations under one roof is now rare. Thus parents have lost the wisdom of older, experienced persons. In truth, a family such as that portrayed by the Waltons on television seldom exists today with grandparents, parents, and many children living all together under one roof. Therefore, young parents of today do a poor job because as youngsters they did not help care for younger brothers and sisters (Zigler 42).

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Today's society and shifting patterns of social order may dictate, then, a climate for abuse. Edward Zigler argues that many parents are just not equipped today for parenthood (42). He says, for instance, that the "extended family is now rare in contemporary society, and with its demise the new parent has lost the wisdom and daily support of older, more experienced family members" (Zigler 42). In truth, a family such as that portrayed by the Waltons on television seldom exists today with grandparents, parents, and many children all living together under one roof. No wonder Zigler argues that "many parents are not as well equipped for parenthood as their parents before them, since over the years most children have been given less responsibility in helping care for younger siblings" (42).