

**Supporting statements/documentation for
“Two Mommies Is One Too Many”
by Dr. James Dobson (*TIME*, Dec 10, 2006)**

“The majority of more than 30 years of social-science evidence indicates that children do best on every measure of well-being when raised by their married mother and father.”

Reports by two leading mainstream child advocacy organizations recently sought to understand which family form best elevated child well-being outcomes. Their conclusions found that married mothers and fathers in low conflict marriages accomplished this important task best:

Specifically...

- The *Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)*, found:

“Most researchers now agree that...studies support the notion that, on average, children do best when raised by their two married biological parents... Research indicates that, on average, children who grow up in families with both their biological parents in a low-conflict marriage are better off in a number of ways than children who grow up in single-, step or cohabiting-parent households.”¹

This paper can be found at: http://www.clasp.org/publications/Marriage_Brief3.pdf

- In addition, *Child Trends* concludes:

“An extensive body of research tells us that children do best when they grow up with both biological parents in a low-conflict marriage... Thus, it is not simply the presence of two parents, as some have assumed, but the presence of *two biological parents* that seem to support child development.”² (Emphasis in original)

This paper can be found at: <http://www.childtrends.org/files/MarriageRB602.pdf>

The supporters of same-sex marriage/adoption/parenting are trying to discredit the mountain of established long-term data that children do best with a married mom and dad, claiming that newer research discredits these findings.

However, conclusive social science research requires two things in order to draw substantive conclusions:

- 1) large, diverse populations, and
- 2) long periods of time to study these populations.

Research cited by proponents of same-sex families has neither of these. Even more, the research they do cite fails to compare “apples to apples.” For example, one often cited study found that children of gay parents “grow up in ways that are very similar to children of divorced heterosexual mothers”³ This research fails to compare to the *ideal* environment for child rearing: a married mother and father.

¹ Mary Parke, “Are Married Parents Really Better for Children?” *Center for Law and Social Policy Policy Brief*, May 2003, p. 1, 6.

² Kristin Anderson Moore, et al., “Marriage From a Child’s Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do about It?” *Child Trends Research Brief*, June 2002, p. 1-2.

³ Ellen C. Perrin, “Technical Report: Coparent and Second-Parent Adoption by Same-Sex Parents,” *Pediatrics* 109, no. 2 (2002): 343.

Dr. Dobson is not the only professional making this point. Two prominent scholars who support same-sex parenting, William Meezan and Jonathan Rauch (published jointly by the Princeton University and Brookings Institute) have stated that virtually no empirical evidence exists on how same-sex parents' marriage might affect their children. They explain:

All but one of the studies we examined employed samples composed of either totally or predominantly white participants. Almost all the participants were middle- to upper-middle class, urban, well-educated and “out.” Most were lesbians, not gay men.⁴

They describe sample sizes:

Most studies describing the development of children raised in gay or lesbian homes report findings on fewer than twenty-five children, and most comparative studies compare fewer than thirty children in each group studied. Other things being equal, the smaller the number of subjects in the groups studied, the harder it is to detect differences between those groups.⁵

Furthermore, many proponents of same-sex parenting are seemingly bolstered by resolutions from professional organizations. *There is more to this than meets the eye.* For instance, two of the most prominent organizations to issue such resolutions – the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Medical Association (AMA) – did so by committee, without vote and debate by the entire membership.

The *Time* op-ed by Dr. Dobson quotes the writings of Dr. Kyle Pruett, stating that dads are critically important simply because “fathers do not mother.”

Dr. Kyle Pruett’s research into the essential value of fathers in the home is undisputed. His book *Fatherneed: Why Father Care is as Essential as Mother Care for Your Child* (New York: The Free Press, 2000) makes one of the most cogent cases for the role of fathers in healthy child development.

While Pruett has tried to distance himself politically from the use of his scientific conclusions, those conclusions still remain.

The *Time* op-ed by Dr. Dobson also quotes the writings of Dr. Carol Gilligan, stating the different contributions of mothers and fathers in parenting:

In her work, *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development* (Harvard University Press, 1982), Dr. Gilligan asserts that men and women are different in their moral and psychological nature. Specifically, she says that men think and operate more out of a sense of justice and rules, while women tend to be directed by a sense of relationship and altruism.

In a recent letter, Dr. Gilligan claims that Dr. Dobson “distorted” and took her “research out of context.” In fact, in his *Time* essay, Dr. Dobson does not represent Professor Gilligan as supporting or opposing same-sex parenting, but only that her work shows that men and women stress different elements in moral teaching. And we make the point that children need these differences, which by design are less likely to be present in same-sex homes.

⁴ William Meezan and Jonathan Rauch, “Gay Marriage, Same-Sex Parenting, and America’s Children,” in *The Future of Children* 15 (2005): 101, <http://www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/06_FOC_15-2_fall05_Meezan-Rauch.pdf> (13 Dec 2006).

⁵ Ibid.

In the cases of both Drs. Gilligan and Pruett, the question is not, “Did Dr. Dobson apply their research only to political stands they agree with?” but rather, “Is the essay true to what these individuals have written?” We believe that it is.

Other researchers have determined that boys are not born with an understanding of “maleness.” They have to learn it, ideally, from their fathers.

Support for this well-documented outlook concerning gender identity formation is found in *A Parent’s Guide to Preventing Homosexuality* by Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D, & Linda Ames Nicolosi (Downers Grive, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002).

See pp. 22-23, and p. 242 (Ch 1, footnote 4) from aforementioned book which includes numerous original sources backing this conclusion.