

May 2017 E-Newsletter

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E-NEWS

Board of Directors

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Dina Herren
BSN, RNC-OB,

Breastfeeding Thoughts

Many of you may have watched (or viewed later) a recent interview on the Tucker Carlson show last weekend. He interviewed a woman, Cathy Areu, publisher of Catalina Magazine, who touted a “recent study” finding... “breastfeeding is unnatural”. My husband actually called me into the living room, to view this spectacle, and I stood slack-jawed listening to this woman, “men can naturally feed children”. Wow!

Of course, Tucker Carlson, a well-known reporter and a father of four, was trying to have an intelligent debate with this lady, pointing out that

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the differences between breastmilk and formula is a scientific debate. Ms. Areu was not having any of that, citing one instance where a mother 'starved' her infant because she refused to give her infant anything other than breastmilk (obviously, for those of us who care for women and infants for a living, there is much more to that story.) Her point being that this mother was 'fearful' to **not** breastfeed. More to the point, the mother was in need of a good LC and supportive Pediatrician!!

I just can't believe that breastfeeding has become politicized? Do some of these folks out there really not understand what breasts are for? Absolutely, if a mother chooses to formula feed her baby (with appropriate education), that is her choice. As far as formula being 'natural', last time I looked at a formula label (last Thursday), it was not!

It is sad that some of the high mucklely-wucks of TV, film, etc. don't share their breastfeeding experiences... like the lady CEO of Yahoo who breastfed her twins, as I recall. That would help some moms out there who hear this some of the garbage that we are all subjected to! I sincerely hope that Ms. Areu has an opportunity to re-shape her thinking and possibly modify her mantra... one can only hope!

I have [linked](#) an article from the April/May 2017 'Nursing for Women's Health' publication (Vol. 21, Issue 2), which addresses 'Maternal Competence' and the 'Baby-Friendly' hospital. This article supports the importance of a nurse's role in promoting maternal competence through support

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