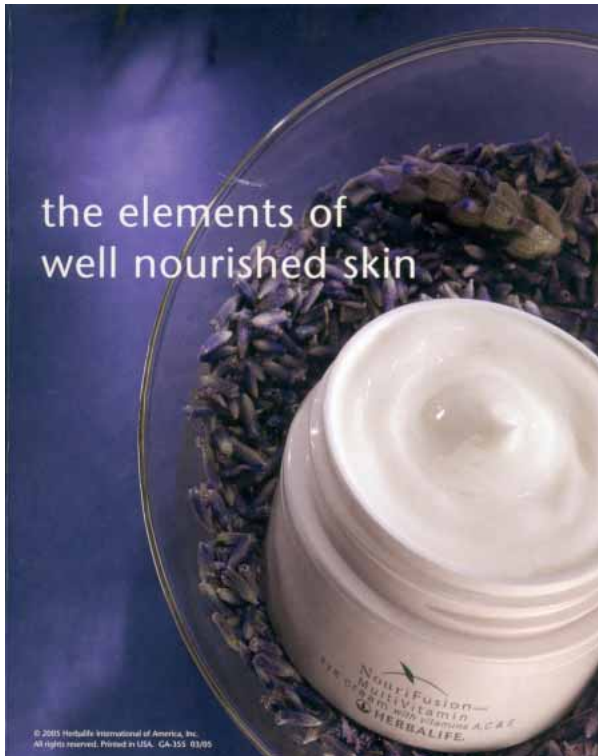




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Protecting Our Children ...*Becoming Safety Obsessed*

By: Kate Davis

Nowadays as parents we are consumed with protecting our children, it's amazing that we survived!

I remember playing and climbing all over the car on those long journeys to grandma's house; there were no seatbelt laws. When the streetlights came on, that was time to go home. We didn't have bike helmets, kneepads, stair gates or electrical plastic plug covers. Heck, in our days, you put your finger in a socket, got electrocuted once and never did it again. That was our rite of passage.

For almost every common sickness there is a vaccine. What happened to the good old fashion immune system? When did that become passé?

Why have my children never licked a 9volt battery? Maybe that's what I'll get them for Christmas. Everything is geared to protect our children, but maybe those lessons we learnt



were valuable and made us the people we are today. It taught us to be cautious, have respect for nature and be a little street smart. I have to admit; before I had kids I never thought about it. Why would I? But now I am obsessed with it, constantly screaming, "Wear your helmet!" "I'll plug the blow dryer in, your hands might be damp." "Not by yourself!"

"Who are you chatting online with?"

How as parents do we teach our children independence when we can't let them go anywhere alone? It's creepy out there today. I think the best thing we can do is to teach them common sense e.g. There's safety in numbers, we must always know where they are going, how they are getting there and back. Your Dad is going with you! Keeping the communication open. I used to scowl at kids talking on cell phones, now it's my 12 years baby gate - so to speak.

Most importantly, teaching your child to listen to their inner voice, *their intuition*, whether that is a feeling in their stomach or a voice in their head, and to TRUST that, is one the greatest tools we can teach our children to protect themselves.

Ok spying on them helps too.

Kate Davis is a clever and candid comedienne and mother of three. From that she has developed her popular workshops "Parenting With Humour" where she helps moms to find funny alternatives in communicating with their kids. Find out more at www.funnymommy.com