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Cedar Park, TX 78613
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NBC Studios
Attn: Baby Borrowers
330 Bob Hope Dr.
Burbank, CA 91501

NBC Programming Dept:

I am a mother of two boys, and I am appalled by your new show "The Baby Borrowers". I am highly concerned about the children involved with the show.

I have been reading an immense amount of research about the effects of separation of babies, toddlers, and even adolescents from their primary caretaker(s). The results are quite negative, horrifying for the children, and can leave a lasting impact.

My first child was doing well when he spent all his time with me. It wasn't until my concerned mother offered to take him off my hands once a week for a sleepover at her and my father's home that things changed. My own intuition told me that, although I was getting a much needed break, I also could not bear to be away from my child for even a few hours. Unfortunately, I stuck it out, and I am still paying the consequences. I am a wonderful mother, but something that seems so innocent, a few hours or a night at Grandma and Grandpa's house, really caused much separation anxiety and more negatives. I continue to deal with the effects of my decisions, but I will not share the details, as my son's feelings and issues are a private matter.

My second child has been cared for differently. He does everything with me, and I see such a difference. As research has proven, nursing, bed sharing, and baby wearing are all natural and necessary for babies, and especially at ages six to eleven months (I believe you are using children this young in your show), they should, in no way, be separated from their mothers or primary caretakers. I cannot emphasize enough that the children on your show could possibly live a life of fear and anxiety with the separation that is necessary for the "success" of your show.

I, myself, am a product of separation anxiety. In only a couple hours visit between my mother and her friend, in which I would wake up in a crib/bed in a strange room in the friend's house, I was panic-stricken. These are the strongest memories of my time as a baby. Waking up all alone in some strange room, not knowing where my mother was. All it takes is a few moments like this, and a child does not know if Mommy is ever to return. It is the most frightening thing for a child.

You still have a chance to make this right. You can stop the show from taping and airing. You can express your concerns, based on letters like mine and research you can read about, and let the parents know that it is not in their children's best interest to partake in a production of such show. Even if they are in a nearby room able to respond if the baby becomes overly upset, it is already too late to instill a sense of trust and calm in that child. The damage is already happening. A baby needs her mommy to respond within a minute or two, and should not be confused by some stranger trying to console him. It is too much for a baby to bear. From my personal experience in my childhood to the comparison of my two children's care, and finally the research that has proven how these experiences effect young children, please reconsider your decision to make this show. You will literally be making a better future for the babies and young children who would have been involved.

Thank you for your time, and I hope to hear the great news that the show has been cancelled before anything gets taped.

Sincerely,

Merritt Knize