

Relax: Daycare Doesn't Make Kids Aggressive!

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Parenting:

Parents who work tend to stress about sending their children to daycare. But a new study involving almost 1,000 Norwegian children enrolled in daycare found that spending time in childcare settings had little impact on aggressive behavior.

The majority of families need a dual income these days (and, of course, single parents heading back to work after baby need childcare, too) — which means many babies and kids are sent to daycare. In Norway, *super-lucky* parents have up to a year of parent leave, so children in that country rarely start attending daycare before they are 9 months old. Even so, researchers for this study, published in *Psychological Science*, interviewed the parents of Norwegian kids age 6 months to 4 years, who attended daycare, and looked at teacher-reported aggression for each child (meaning their tendency to hit, push, and bite.)

“One surprising finding was that the longer children were in non-parental care, the smaller the effects on aggression became,” said Eric Dearing, lead author on the study. “From a public perspective, our findings are important because they should help ease parents’ fears about the potential harms of early non-parental child care,” says Eric Dearing.

Read the whole story: [Parenting](#)