



The lecture has ended. PEOPLE mill about the lobby of the auditorium, wine in hand.

In a corner, Ed is surrounded by five DOCTORS, engaged in a heated argument.

ED

How many intelligible words do you hear coming out of young parents' mouths the first year of their babies' lives?

DOCTOR #1

But studies have proven that communication of that kind, verbal non-verbals, is essential to a child's ability to create vowel and consonant sounds!

ED

Of course that's what studies show! Because no studies have ever been attempted to prove that other methods are more effective, and the "goo" and "gaa" introduction to language can essentially stifle a mind's potential. Our ultimate goal isn't to *undo* the way people parent, but to simply emphasize rational responses, to downplay emotional outbursts by not rewarding them with any type of productive response.

DOCTOR #2

And you're doing that by taking children away from their homes?

ED

Let's be honest with ourselves. People fight. Mom and Dad fight. We fight with siblings. But the question that's most important is *how* we fight, and *why* we fight in the way we do. When a child sees her mother screaming at her father, she's learned that such outbursts are normal, acceptable--"human," as pop culture claims.

ANGRY DOCTOR

But they are human!!!