

Tekst 4

Big Mother is watching you

Hi-tech parenting is getting out of hand, says **Marina Cantacuzino**



At the cost of just £300,000, it seems that film actress Jodie Foster has come up with the definitive answer to diminishing the working mother's guilt. She's invested in a futuristic baby monitor so she can dial home from anywhere in the world, to see and talk to her son "when only a

mother's voice will do".

Spying on your baby, like spying on neighbours, is all the rage. The latest technology from Mothercare, the Lindham Babytalk Sound and Vision monitor, costs a mere £329 for "the ultimate reassurance and total peace of mind" to anxious parents. This monitor allows you not only to hear but also to watch your sleeping baby no matter where you are inside the house, or up to 100 metres away in the open air.

This is already a hot seller but it beats me why so many parents choose to hear their babies crying. I mean, that's what babies are meant to do isn't it? But now every parent's aim seems to be to keep baby from wailing or whining, whatever it costs to achieve this.

I've always believed there's nothing wrong with a baby exercising his lungs from time to time, and I've never gone in for

monitors myself. Several of my friends have called me heartless but I don't want to hear my baby's every snuffle and cry. When he bawls, I hear him well enough.

What amazes me is even friends with small flats have a monitor in every room. The reason, I'm sure, is that they are to be bought in every shape or form and nobody bothers to wonder if they are really needed.

'The Guardian'

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- 1p 10 ■ Why does Marina Cantacuzino have doubts about baby monitors? She thinks that
- A babies may become insecure if being watched all the time.
 - B it is all right to ignore one's baby's cries now and then.
 - C it is enough to hear one's baby crying without seeing it.
 - D monitors are too expensive compared with baby-sitters.