



January 26, 2010

Letter to the Editor  
*USA Today*  
Via e-mail: [letters@usatoday.com](mailto:letters@usatoday.com)

To the Editor:

Your Jan. 21 article, "Same-sex couples can be effective parents, researchers find," seems to be an example of journalism by news release. A basic reading of the study reveals its authors have far over-reached to reach their conclusion.

The authors allege "research to date...does not support" the claim that "children need both a mother and a father." Really?

Non-partisan child-advocacy research organizations like Child Trends and the Center for Law and Social Policy, as well as leading sociologists find that the best family environment to raise children for optimal well-being outcomes is in a peaceful home where mom is married to dad and they both work together to raise their kids. Not only that, but a major published review of research on the importance of fatherhood reports, "much of this evidence suggests that the influence of father love on offspring's development is as great and occasionally greater than the influence of mother love."

However, our authors in the same-sex parenting study actually claim that "lesbian coparents seem to outperform comparable married heterosexual, biological parents on several measures." Are we to believe that God and nature actually short-changed children by giving them biological parents, rather than these new and improved "lesbian coparents?" That is precisely what this study would have us believe.

The authors seem to ignore the research on family change in developed nations garnered over the last 40 years has provided scientists with many different kinds of family forms to study in large, diverse numbers over long periods of time. Their findings consistently and frequently show that no other family form rivals a married mother and father raising their own children. No level of enthusiasm for same-sex parents can change that simple fact.

Sincerely,  
Glenn Stanton  
Director, Family Formation Studies  
Focus on the Family