

**Publication****Responding to a crying infant - you do not learn it overnight : a phenomenological study****Journal Article (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 2609690**Author(s)** Kurth, Elisabeth; Kennedy, Holly Powell; Zemp Stutz, Elisabeth; Kesselring, Annemarie; Fornaro, Isabel; Spichiger, Elisabeth**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Zemp Stutz, Elisabeth](#) ;**Year** 2014**Title** Responding to a crying infant - you do not learn it overnight : a phenomenological study**Journal** Midwifery**Volume** 30**Number** 6**Pages / Article-Number** 742-9**Keywords** Infant crying, Parenting, Postnatal care, Qualitative research

to examine the views and practices of first-time and experienced mothers in response to infant crying during the first 12 weeks post birth.; longitudinal, qualitative study using an interpretive, phenomenological approach.; postnatal hospital and home settings in Switzerland.; maximum variation sampling of 15 new mothers of diverse parity and educational background who had given birth to a full-term healthy neonate.; participant observations in the postnatal ward and two narrative interviews at participants' homes at 6-8 and 12-14 weeks post partum. Data analysis used interpretive approaches of case analysis, thematic analysis and exemplars.; first-time mothers showed some soothing skills from the beginning, but fine-tuned their practices of handling the crying infant and managing their own reactions. With growing experience mothers acquired a differentiated understanding of the crying's reason and urgency and used more successful soothing techniques. At the same time they learned to assess and mitigate their own stress reactions by self-soothing and adopting realistic expectations of normal infant behaviour. Experienced mothers knew the infant's frequent crying would diminish after a while whereas first-time mothers coped without this positive expectation.; with increasing child-care experience mothers' skills and attitudes towards crying changed, leading to a calmer and less escalating response to their crying infant.; inexperienced mothers need information on neonatal crying behaviour and on parents' stress response. They should be taught how to recognise and respond to the new-born's signals, and how to cope with their own stress. Postnatal care should provide novice mothers to learn from experienced role models.

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