

Mother and Child Health – Common Sense, Creativity and Care

*Selected works of
Dr. Cicely D. Williams,
primary health care
pioneer*

The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and LINKAGES. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).



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Dr. Cicely Williams was an international renowned 20th century paediatrician. She revolutionised maternal infant care services in the developing world. She left us with much wisdom eg. cuddles are just as important as calories; you can't learn nutrition from a biochemist; the importance of listening to mothers and grandmothers before talking.

She recognized that preventive and curative care must be delivered together; services must be intensive as well as extensive to make a difference and it was important to identify local resources. She was passionate about the importance of breastfeeding for nutrition, immunity, prevention of diarrhoeal disease and population control.

She accused the formula companies of depriving innocent babies of breastmilk. She held the conviction that with death control comes birth control; it's important to establish priorities through surveys and surveillance and making sure there is supervision by the best person available.

There is much wisdom in her writings which are still very relevant today.

ISBN 983-2685-09-5

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Edited
by
Naomi Baumslag M. D.



World Alliance for
Breastfeeding Action

ISBN 983-2685-09-5
188 pages • US letter size (21.59 X 27.94cm)
Second Edition
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Action (WABA)
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