
THE BASICS COMMUNITY CONTRACT

BY RONALD FERGUSON

We should sign a Basics Contract
Wherein when it comes to babies
We would share an obligation
With no “ifs” or “buts” or “maybes.”

Maximize Love, Manage Stress

We could guarantee that parents
Would be rescued from their stress
By supportive friends and neighbors
Helping put their cares to rest.

This includes the types of friendship where
When weary from no sleep
Every parent finds a trusted soul
Their precious child to keep.

Talk, Sing, and Point

We would help each parent come to know
The benefits of talking
And the ways that pointing helps the child
Decipher all their squawking.

Count, Group, and Compare

We would post on walls and billboards
Things that little kids could count
Near some sculptures made for grouping
To compare and climb and mount.

Explore through Movement and Play

We would donate games and puzzles
And some toys to use outside
We’d make sure that every toddler
Has a tricycle to ride.

Read and Discuss Stories

And each child would be enthralled
By all the wonders found through reading
For we’d offer to each family
Any books they might be needing.

Hereby Resolved

If we all embrace this vision
(That means friends and neighbors too)
Parents then will find the bandwidth
To do what they need to do.

Yes they’ll need to do the Basics
And by doing your small part
You will help more parents seed their kids
To learn and grow up smart.

If we all resolve to do these things
We’ve learned will be required
Then each child our efforts benefit
Will be a life inspired.

