Narvaez has a writing style that makes for effortful reading. The flow of her prose is continually interrupted by excessive quotation from, and unnecessary reference to, other sources. References are often to books and other secondary sources. The development of her ideas is often difficult to follow.

It should go without saying that it is our duty as parents and citizens to give our children the best possible start in life and to bring them up as responsible and happy members of our communities. The basic requirements of love, concern, physical contact, security and emotional stability are obvious to most people. There is no need to refer to a putative hunter-gatherer past to justify these.

Healthcare systems are already struggling to provide services for the most psychologically disturbed members of our society. We know that focus on especially vulnerable families can produce profound and durable benefits on the life course of children. There can be no justification for the diversion of resources to the kind of untested, population-wide project proposed by Narvaez.

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