



London, Printed for R. Sayer & J. Bennett,

THE FOND PARENTS.

Nº 53 Fleet Street, as the Act directs 16 Sep^r 1776.

The Fond Parents, artist unknown, 1776

PRINT

The Fond Parents, artist unknown, 1776

Courtesy of The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University

In the 18th century, prints represented an easily reproducible, and therefore relatively affordable, form of artwork. Compared to a painting, once the original engraving – essentially a metal stamp – was completed, creating copies was relatively easy, making this type of artwork more accessible to the common person.

This 1776 print presents a scene of domestic happiness, with a family cozily gathered around a fireplace. The mother smiles at one son and holds his hand, while he stands at her knee looking up at her. To her right, her husband leans to pick up their second child, while to her left another child stands banging on a toy drum. An older man – perhaps the grandfather – watches over the scene, and a cat lays curled up on the fireplace's mantle, taking a nap.