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It's So Amazing!: A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, And Families (The Family Library)



Synopsis

"An outstanding book. . . . Meets the needs of those in-between or curious kids who are not ready, developmentally or emotionally, for It's Not Perfectly Normal." —Booklist (starred review) How does a baby begin? What makes a baby male or female? How is a baby born? Children have plenty of questions about reproduction and babies—and about sex and sexuality, too. It's Not Perfectly Normal provides the answers—with fun, accurate, comic-book-style artwork and a clear, lively text that reflects the interests of children age seven and up in how things work, while giving them a healthy understanding of their bodies. Created by the author and illustrator of It's Not Perfectly Normal, this forthright and funny book has been newly updated for its fifteenth anniversary.

Book Information

Series: The Family Library

Paperback: 88 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 15th New edition (August 8, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.3 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 431 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,116 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #3 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Sexuality #4 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Maturing

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

The creators of It's Not Perfectly Normal, targeted to middle-schoolers, here reach out to a slightly younger audience with candor and humor, neatly distilling various aspects of sex, reproduction and love. An inquisitive, loquacious bird and an embarrassed bee act as comic and straight man and serve as diverting foils to Harris's conversational narrative; kids will both identify with and chuckle at the two characters' reactions and asides. The duo's cheerful banter also clarifies some potentially

confusing issues ("So the fetus doesn't grow where the pizza goes!" proclaims the newly enlightened bee). Specific topics covered include changes in boys' and girls' bodies during puberty, intercourse, birth control, chromosomes and genes, adoption and adjusting to a newborn sibling. The roster of experts in the closing acknowledgments speaks to the sensitivity and intelligence with which Harris and Emberley handle their treatment of masturbation, sexual abuse, HIV and AIDS and homosexuality. Emberley's artwork ranges from lighthearted cartoon panels of a talking sperm meeting up with an egg in the fallopian tube to straightforward drawings of reproductive organs and a developing fetus. With its informal yet informed perspective, this volume renders much "amazing" phenomena reassuringly comprehensible. Ages 7-up. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 4-Another barrier-breaking contribution by Harris and Emberley that seamlessly bridges *It's Perfectly Normal* (1994) and *Happy Birth Day!* (1996, both Candlewick). This oversized, attractive guide on reproduction and birth answers common questions such as "Exactly what is sex?" and "Where does the baby actually come out?" The familiar enthusiastic bird and reluctant bee narrate the comic cartoon panels, eventually deciding that the miracles of birth, families, and love are just "so amazing." Readers will appreciate the life-size illustration of a full-term fetus, and adults will be grateful for the many different ways Emberley portrays situations not always easy to explain to children. People are represented with a variety of body shapes and ethnicity, and Harris discusses sexual preferences and alternative family situations. While the illustrations are engaging and often hilarious, factual information is effectively presented in a clear, nonjudgmental tone that will inform and assure readers. Topics covered include basic anatomy, conception, fetal development, birth, genetics, adoption, and love. Sexual abuse and HIV are sensitively mentioned in short, informative chapters. An essential guide that will delight and inform and appeal to young readers as well as adults. Katie O'Dell, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Please remember to check your child's computer access. This was a very complete book and I agree with other reviewers that it is a good source of information... however my child google terms shortly after reading this book, and I did not realize that my safety settings do not block google images. :(Not too much harm done (I think!), but thought I should warn other parents... I explained to my child that computers save browsing history so people can see what others have searched/looked at, that there is inappropriate and harmful content online, that computers can get

viruses or other issues when inappropriate links are opened, etc. But first I did freak out (while trying not to show it), so I hope this helps other parents! Also, if anyone has comments on this for how to handle, I would appreciate any suggestions (can you reply to a review? hmmm), thanks!

I am amazed at how much I enjoyed this book. It's a great tasteful presentation of the human body with lots of scientific information on how babies are made all the way through childbirth. Surprisingly, it didn't make me feel uncomfortable at all. It has short easy to read paragraphs, comic strips, and lots of diagrams. To me, it seems most age appropriate for ages 10-12, though every family/situation is different.*Let's be honest, what you really want to know about this book: how it defines sex!! So here it is: "When a woman and a man want to make a baby, they hug, and cuddle and kiss and feel very loving, and get very close to each other - so close that the man's penis goes inside the woman's vagina. When this happens, it is called "sexual intercourse."" No technical diagrams, just a picture of a man and women in bed kissing under a blanket with hearts in the air. It also very tastefully covers homosexuality in terms of love, and briefly touches on masturbation: "touching or rubbing the private parts of your own body because it feels good is called masturbation...every family has its own thoughts and feelings about masturbation. Some people and some religions think it's wrong to masturbate... most doctors agree that masturbation is perfectly healthy and normal - and cannot hurt your body."Hope this helps you decide if this is the right book for you!

This book is excellent but much of the content is not appropriate for age 7+. My granddaughter is turning 9, and I bought it for her, but I will put it away for a year or 2 and find something more age appropriate. I would rate this for age 10+.

A wonderful book for my shy 10 year old. He wants to know about these things but doesn't want to talk about it. I see him reading this and it has been helpful for him to be able to ask more specific questions. Very science based, no skirting issues or glossing over uncomfortable topics.

We will be adopting an older child from foster care and this book (and it's older companion) are highly recommended in foster/adopt communities. I love that all types of families are reflected (step-parents, living with relatives, foster, adopt, gay parents, etc). I also love that kids of color share the pages equally with white kids. We love the funny, honest and truthful approach to such a wide variety of topics.. it's so much more than just "how a baby is made", but truly a young persons guide

to bodies, sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, relationships, good/bad touches, masturbation, etc. AWESOME resource for REAL families. :)

If you only buy one book about these subjects for your child, this is it! It can be shared by child/parent, or be given to an older child to take in as they are interested. I loved reading this with my home schooled son in grade 4. The candid delivery of facts made it easy to cover a lot of territory, and the cartoon bird and bee making their own comments made this a fun read! I personally love the illustration style, and noted the inclusion of a diversity of cultural backgrounds and both the author and illustrator's recognition of the legitimacy of all kinds of families. This year I was delighted to discover the next book by this team on adolescence.

This was a great book for having "the talk" with my daughter. I read it beforehand, and then skimmed through it with her. She is now aloud to read it in detail on her own. I love that the book covers all different types of families - adopted, same sex, etc. as well as the basics of anatomy. Great resource for anyone panicking about that conversation!

My 8-year-old daughter loves this book! She is kind of grossed out by some of it, yet fascinated at the same time (especially the drawings of how boys mature). It clearly answers all her "where do babies come from" related questions in a totally age-appropriate way and the pictures are drawn well - accurate but not inappropriate for her age. Highly recommended!

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