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ROBERT S. FELDMAN

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Child Development Details

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Nana Seryz says

if u wanna find a good understanding about your child, this book is what u searching for... it's good for your home collection.....

Jessica says

This book was frustrating on a number of levels. While it provides a wealth of general knowledge, this is one of the text books that breaks the rules of numbered classes. What I mean is, we take 100 level courses in psychology to learn the basics so that when we move up to 200 or 300 level classes, they don't have to reteach all that stuff over and over . . . but, that's exactly what this book does, only it broke it down into the years. I felt like, "Yeah, I already knew all the theories. I was hoping for something a little more specific." There was probably only 25-30% new information in this book to build on top of books designed for less specific, more general types of psychology.

Another frustration was writing style; self-imposing a structure that doesn't work in every chapter makes it 1.) boring, and 2.) repetitive. Inevitably, there will be things that overlap. This is my least favorite writing style for text books, because it becomes reading a book instead of having what feels like a great, thorough, and meaningful conversation with an expert of the field backed up by research.

Finally, the research that Feldman used was not critically viewed at all; he took it at face value, even when there are glaring confounding variables that even someone of my experience can see. Ahem. Feldman, your BIAS is SHOWING! Although his bias only makes a small appearance in a few places, it's enough to make me question his credibility overall. Along the lines of this topic, the hopeful assumption made throughout the book that adults are complete at the end of adolescence doesn't make any sense at all. Development is a life-long process, and having a fully developed brain does not equate to having a fully developed cognitive, social, or physiological status. Duh? Why break it down and then talk about it like reaching the 20's is the end-all of development? Flawed logic and too much generalization, that's why.

If it weren't for the few tidbits of new knowledge and good research, this would've gotten 1 star.
