



Parenting an Only Child: The Joys and Challenges of Raising Your One and Only

Susan Newman

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By a child-care authority and mother of an only child, this useful, knowledgeable book provides sound advice on creating an enriching environment that's stimulating and enjoyable for only children and their parents alike.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Parenting an Only Child: The Joys and Challenges of Raising Your One and Only Details

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From Reader Review Parenting an Only Child: The Joys and Challenges of Raising Your One and Only for online ebook

Viewpoints Radio says

Only children have been regarded as selfish or spoiled. Research finds that children without siblings are actually quite similar to those with siblings. In this book, Susan Newman gives her advice to parents about how to raise an only child and helps them defeat the only child stereotypes. We had the chance to speak with Susan Newman on our Radio show Radio Health Journal about the challenges and triumphs of raising only child. If you would like to hear this segment, please check out this link!

<https://radiohealthjournal.wordpress....>

D. says

As the reviewer before me stated, hardly any of this book is actually about parenting singletons, instead the author chose to spend chapter after chapter telling the myriad of reasons why it was a good idea to think carefully before I chose to have a second child. If it had been titled appropriately and marketed to people trying to decide if they wanted to raise siblings, I would have never wasted my time attempting to read it.

Misty says

Tried too hard to make its point. But it has helped relieve my anxiety about having an only, even if at points the enumeration of reasons to have an only made me feel slightly depressed. Yes I'm an old mom. Yes I care about my career. Yes I guess I'm as bougie as these other people.

Most of the advice was just sound parenting advice, with the urgency to really do it right because the only won't have a sibling to lean on. I liked the advice that you should parent like you have three kids so as not to overdo it with your one.

I liked hearing from onlies too. This book was worth reading but was annoying too. Probably true of all parenting books.

Ellen says

Having grown up in a family of 4 children, I wanted to find a resource that would help me avoid any pitfalls of raising an Only Child. This book, unfortunately, was not the resource I needed. Being a parent of an Only Child was not a choice but a circumstance for me. Susan Newman speaks to parents who choose to have an "Only" letting them know that it's okay to do so.

Alyssabenner says

I now know that only children will be fine and there's no reason (socially, etc) not to have one, but the author was too anecdotal and pushed having only one a little too hard in my opinion.

Christine says

Convenience sample of affluent families, no comparison families. Most helpful advice was about keeping in touch with cousins so grown child will have someone to share memories with and about not falling into the trap of letting the only rule the roost. As other reviewers have said, too much space in book on decision whether or not to have more.

Annie says

This is helping me have healthier conversations with others who believe that I should not be satisfied with one amazing daughter.

Michelle says

I read this since my daughter is still an only child at 4.5 years and I wanted some insight to tackle any issues that might come from "onliness". The title is misleading - should be more about making the decision to have an only child and feel good about it. I thought that the book skirted serious issues by falling back on why it's a good reason to have an only child (finances, freedom to be you, career, etc). A certain class bias shined through in with remarks about how larger families are often lower class and prefer activities like cheer-leading and football (????) and only children prefer solitary activities like poetry and music making. That one made me laugh out loud actually. If you need bolstering for your decision to have an only child then this one's for you. If you want deep insight into raising an only child whether you have chosen it or not then you might put this lower on your queue.

Kelly says

True, this book may not help you with the day-to-day business of raising a child, but what parenting book does? In struggling with my decision to limit our family to one child, Ms. Newman's words were enormously comforting. The piece of advice that most stuck with me was this; the only reason to have a second child is because YOU want another child. There is no other reason. The idea that children need siblings is patently false and this book helped me realize that. We are very happy in our three person household.

Ratnakar says

This book would be great if you are still in the planning phase. The book is divided into three parts. The first part is primarily information.. boring. The second part is interesting and good advice. The third part is again kind of persuading you to stick to only. Boring again.

Rebecca Rossi says

Fantastic book that solidified our decision to have one child! So excited for the future

Sarah says

Only child propaganda. The author is almost pushy about how raising an only child is the only way to parent. The book was filled with first-hand accounts of being an only child, but rather than adding to the book, it was too distracting. Personal narratives were piled one on top of another. While the statistics were interesting to read, the book was far too long for the amount of actual information given. It wasn't a terrible book, but I wouldn't read it a second time, and I'm glad I checked it out from the library and didn't purchase it.

Shae says

Bleh. This book seems to be written from the stand point of those who have one child by choice, and comes off a little defensive and exultant about it. I only made it about half way through before I decided I was kind of wasting my time. The best I got out of it was: 1.) Moderation in Parenting, 2.) Parent like you have three kids, and the rest is just common parenting practices that could apply to any situation.

CS says

Even though this book is called "Parenting an Only Child," only about a third of the book actually talks about parenting. The other two thirds gives justifications for only having one child. I suppose that would be useful for some folks who are having a hard time deciding or dealing with the issue, but I was looking for more information about the actual raising of my only.

Jessorella says

This book had an interesting premise and I had actively searched it out based on its title, but I did find that it was very much slanted towards parents of only children who had made a conscious decision to have just the one child. Throughout the book there are snippets from interviews with parents of "onlys" and they consistently said things along the lines of "we're so glad we made this choice" and so forth. Which is wonderful for them, but it doesn't help readers who have picked up the book because they have an only child and perhaps may have not intended to stop at one. This is just a small gripe, really, but it does reflect my

opinion of the whole book because -- with the exception of one or two sentences about parents who have had one child and struggled to have any more -- it focuses almost exclusively on parents who only ever planned to have the one in the first place.
