



It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends

Robie H. Harris , Michael Emberley (Illustrator)

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From the expert team behind IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL and IT'S SO AMAZING! comes a book for younger children about their bodies — a resource that parents, teachers, librarians, health care providers, and clergy can use with ease and confidence.

Young children are curious about almost everything, especially their bodies. And young children are not afraid to ask questions. What makes me a girl? What makes me a boy? Why are some parts of girls' and boys' bodies the same and why are some parts different? How was I made? Where do babies come from? Is it true that a stork brings babies to mommies and daddies?

IT'S NOT THE STORK! helps answer these endless and perfectly normal questions that preschool, kindergarten, and early elementary school children ask about how they began. Through lively, comfortable language and sensitive, engaging artwork, Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley address readers in a reassuring way, mindful of a child's healthy desire for straightforward information. Two irresistible cartoon characters, a curious bird and a squeamish bee, provide comic relief and give voice to the full range of emotions and reactions children may experience while learning about their amazing bodies. Vetted and approved by science, health, and child development experts, the information is up-to-date, age-appropriate, and scientifically accurate, and always aimed at helping kids feel proud, knowledgeable, and comfortable about their own bodies, about how they were born, and about the family they are part of.

It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends Details

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From Reader Review It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends for online ebook

Friend of Pixie (F.O.P.) says

We got this book when Logan was 4 and we look at it off and on. The first couple times, we just read it straight through. Now we use it more as a reference book when he has a question. I especially like the first part that shows the differences between boys and girls and the section on "Okay Touches, Not Okay Touches." The only part the Logan was really confused by was the double-page spread on the sperm and the egg coming together. It's all cartoons, so the egg and sperm are given expressive faces and Logan was convinced that sperm and eggs are animate. It took a while to explain that they aren't because then Logan couldn't understand how two things w/o faces could come together to make one thing with a face (a baby). I think he's still a little hazy on that and pictures eggs and sperm all chatting and cooing to one another. Sigh. The rest of the book is less silly. The authors didn't feel compelled to, say, give the fallopian tubes or the scrotum faces!

Lisa says

I realized I needed to educate my six-year-old son when I found him pinching his nipples before a shower and when I told him not to, he asked, "These are nipples?" That same day, I noticed him adjusting himself and looking uncomfortable. After some questioning, we discovered he had been experiencing a normal fact of life for some time!

Thankfully, I heard about this book, which I ordered from B&N (yay for free membership shipping!), along with its companion book for older kids: It's So Amazing!. I read this to my son and then had my nine-year-old daughter read it herself as I sat next to her. I plan to have her read the more detailed older book as well.

This book is great! It's just the right level for younger kids (it's marked for ages 4 and up) -- though you obviously should read it yourself first to make sure you're okay with the content. I ended up leaving nothing out, and the parts I was nervous about were fine - he didn't dwell on them. There are comic strip characters, the Bird and the Bee, that make jokes throughout. This levity helped set the tone for the book. We laughed a lot. It helped make ME comfortable, which made the whole experience completely natural and matter-of-fact, which it would have been anyway because of how the book is written. It also covers some important things, such as not okay touches.

Highly recommended.

Crystal Peterson says

I read this to my daughter after she had a lot of questions about where babies came from. I read her the book and answered questions. The book is meant for ages 4 and up. My daughter is 4. Some of it went into a lot of details and pictures, but she had questions. She wanted to know why boys stood up when they pee (after

seeing a kid at daycare) and other questions like that. She kept wanting to look ahead at the book but I told her she had to wait to look at it until we finished reading it. We are done now, and she is looking it over. If she has questions, she can come to me. I suggest a parent read this first though to see how they feel about it. I do feel it is good to start teaching kids this at a young age, so it's in their brains about these types of things.

Sheena Maxwell says

Perfect for my 5 year old son and i to read together. He was full of questions and i was just so awkward answering some of them ("What?! What do you mean the penis goes in the vagina?! are you joking?! What if the daddy has to pee when the mommy and daddy are attached?"). This book helped!!!

Sara Kamjou says

Fatima says

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Parisa says

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Shaho Farivar says

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Mary Ann says

This book is aimed at ages 4 - 8, and has lots of cartoons and short parts as part of the description. I like the way it starts with real basic questions, like how are girls and boys the same and different. It has a conversational tone, but clear information with lots of illustrations - drawings that look realistic. It shows special parts on the outside of boys and girls bodies, and on the inside of their bodies. It does talk about sex, but in a way I'm comfortable with: "When grownups want to make a baby, most often a woman and a man have a special kind of loving called 'making love' - having sex' or 'sex.' this kind of loving happens when the woman and the man get so close to each other that the man's penis goes inside the woman's vagina." My guess is that this has lots more than Maddy & Malena want, but it would make an easy introduction.

Nina says

This was an actual conversation I had with one of my *8th grade* students today, during Social Studies class, to settle a dispute she and her friend were having:

Student: Mrs. Franklin, a girl has three holes, right?

Me: uh, yes. Urethra, vagina, and anus.

Student (to her friend): see?

Student (to me): and the blood and the baby come out of the vagina, right?

Me: yes. And that's different from where pee comes out.

Pretty sure my 7 year old is clear on the three hole situation. She was happy to skip the section on boys' anatomy for now, but it's there on our bookshelf when she wants it.

Jen Winckler says

This is a great book for parents to use as a starting point to talk about bodies, changes, boys/girls, differences/similarities, and where babies come from. If you've ever had that "uh.....well....." conversation, this is a great tool. Very descriptive without being over the top. Conversational context. My 6 year old is VERY interested and seems to be soaking it up - I can see the wheels turning. We talk about how not all families may be ready to talk about these words and to not use them at school, etc. but now I know when he hears things on the bus from older kids he'll have heard the truth from me and not be confused. My 4 year old is also interested and things go over his head that he's not ready for.

KamRun says

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Jessica says

This is an excellent sex ed book. I would advise some caution in recommending it to parents, however, because it is one of the most challenged children's books. This is probably because it has pretty explicit images given the fact that it's recommended for ages 4 and up. For example, in the section about sex, it

shows a mom and dad in bed having sex (albeit with blankets on--in the ages 12 and up version it shows the same couple without blankets). It also has pictures of vaginas and penises, and naked bodies of men and women going through various stages of life. It was a little shocking to read, actually. What keeps it for children are the little animals who react to each section of the book. In the sex section, they say, "Can you believe this??" "No way, I'm way too young to do this!" probably mirroring the incredulous reactions that a young child would have. For such a short book, it's extremely thorough. I was especially impressed by the section on "ok touches vs. not ok touches"--something that young children need to know about! It also covers different types of families, including gay parents--but somewhat briefly. For all the shock value, it's a well-written and informative book. I'd just recommend that parents read it first to decide whether it's appropriate for their children FIRST.

Frahmani110 says

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Dustin Roberts says

A great informational book for children and parents looking to explain the long dreaded question: "Where do babies come from?" With this book parents can be prepared and ready to answer without any confusion or lies. The book is very straight forward in its descriptions and kid-friendly illustrations about the bodies of girls and boys. It's accurate, comforting, and positive in its approach to the topics of the sex, the similarities, and the differences of boys and girls, and most definitely deserves praise for dishing out the truth with confidence. After all, when children ask questions they want, and deserve, the truth. Though many may think the targeted age level is a little young for the content and illustrations it's important to remember that children at this age will probably be getting information from friends at school, so the matter-of-fact style of this book is sure to give them the correct knowledge beforehand. What makes the book most relatable is the fact that the illustrations are very colorful and cartoon-like, but they at the same time depict children's bodies (the bodies of the intended audience) in an accurate manner for those who have specific questions and are familiar with the various parts of their own body.
