



The Strong-Willed Child: Birth Through Adolescence

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Dr Dobson's invaluable advice has reached more than one million families, helping parents effectively discipline headstrong children without breaking their spirit.

The Strong-Willed Child: Birth Through Adolescence Details

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From Reader Review The Strong-Willed Child: Birth Through Adolescence for online ebook

Kristen Gebbia says

Excellent reminder to me that a strong willed child tests the boundaries often because boundaries = love to them. By enforcing a boundary I'm expressing love to my child.

Also good was the recommendation that spankings be reserved for outright rebellion. Offenses that aren't done out of pure defiance merit more creative punishments.

Shannon says

There was only a handful of information in here that is useful for me right now, but it was good information that helped me re-evaluate how I discipline and how I could improve for it to be more effective for my strong-willed child. I liked how he presented his suggestions and advice in a light and readable manner. And what I also really liked about this book was how Dr. Dobson discussed and criticized some popular views out there (like not spanking and parenting only by negotiation/explanation, etc.). He does it much more eloquently than I could, so I'm definitely saving that information for whenever I might need to use it in a discussion or debate!

Rachel Lavoie says

Meh. It was largely common sense and since I didn't read the updated version it was super out-dated examples so the application is kind of hit or miss. That's not saying the examples were bad necessarily just not very compelling or easily translated to the 21st century. I didn't like the layout of the book either - basically just a bunch of anecdotes and then a q&a portion at the end of most chapters. I wasn't really moved or changed by the material. My big take away is "You can break the rebellious and counter-productive will of a child just as long as you don't break his/her spirit - the essence of who they are and how they are uniquely wired" seems reasonable enough!

Jodi says

This book sums up my daughter to a "t!" She was a firecracker before birth and at 13, she is still my firecracker. On the back of the book, Dobson has written, "....there are others who seem to be looking for a fight upon exit from the womb. Such a child comes into the world smoking a cigar and barking orders in the delivery room." Yep! That's my girl! I have been told strong-willed children can learn to become great leaders and my answer is always that I hope my daughter uses her abilities for good and not for evil!! Shaping her will has been tough, but I work at it daily. From the time she was born until now, I have spent many days exhausted and I don't need comments from people who have only dealt with my compliant children (my 11 year old boy is such a child) - until you have parented a strong-will child, you don't know what it is like! Let me back up a bit, I was always everyone's favorite babysitter in high school and was good with children. I went to college to become an elementary school and always had good classroom

management. I always just thought it was my talent with children until I met my daughter. I have eaten a lot of humble pie in parenting her, and I now realize that children come with their own agenda and ideas. This doesn't mean that these children can be allowed to be brats or hurt others. It simply means their parents have to work harder to raise them from "cave people" into civilized beings who can live in polite society. I am now more patient when I see kids misbehaving in public with tired parents - sure, some may be bad parents, but they may also be tired parents dealing with a strong-willed child and I try to give them the grace and help I wish I had received more often when I was in a similar situation. I'll forage ahead and there are days I see a wonderful person beginning to emerge behind her eyes. Until she is grown (and even then) I will continue to pray for her to be a happy, healthy, contributing member of society! Thanks Dobson! I wish I had picked up your book sooner!!

Katharine says

While I'm not a huge fan of Dobson's tone and anecdotes, his content was very helpful. He promotes understanding when a child is willfully disobeying you versus just being a distracted, excitable kid. You discipline in the former situation and try to instruct/teach in the later. And while "discipline" includes corporal punishment, it's certainly not limited to that.

I especially appreciated how he addressed the fact that you want to train your child to respect authority without crushing his or her spirit.

All in all, I'd definitely recommend this book, even if you don't have a "strong-willed" child.

I didn't realize there was an updated version of the book until I finished it. I guess that negates my observation that too much space was devoted to debunking other parenting philosophies that seemed outdated.

Cole Ramirez says

I glanced through some of the reviews before reading this and am wondering if many of the 1-star reviewers actually read the book. Yes, Dr. Dobson advocates for spanking (as do most Christian traditional parenting authors), but to me he SO CLEARLY laid out that corporal punishment (or any punishment, for that matter) need be balanced with a powerful, unconditional, and steady LOVE for our children. How did the negative reviewers miss that?

I borrowed my mom's copy of this book, which she presumably read and marked up when I myself was a strong willed child. How interesting to see the parts that stuck out to her and that shaped her parenting! (For the record, she spanked, and I have never questioned her love).

I think the title is a bit misleading - there wasn't really anything that particularly applied to strong willed children in this book. It's application is for ALL children (aren't they all strong willed at some point or another?), not specifically those who are stubborn or rebellious in nature.

His tone and some of the stories he chose weren't my favorite, but the advice is so solid - the clear message to both love and guide your children - that I couldn't help but give it 5 stars.

Jambean8 says

Read it as a teacher, not a parent, because it was a free copy and thought I could convert some advice to my situation. Supposedly the 2005 update is more relevant for teachers. He mentions in this version of a future book for teachers. I can't seem to find one anywhere, so maybe he just stuck with parenting and added something to the newer version.

Many reviews of this book are negative because of his advocacy of corporal punishment, which is blanketedly described as child abuse, but what I read was just the opposite of abusive. Definitely not insights I'm taught in the teaching profession, which is more concerned with not getting sued than actually helping create a healthy environment in a classroom. As someone not a parent, I'll have to let that controversy rest, but as a teacher, I do know that neither authoritarianism nor permissiveness works. There has to be a balance.

Kari Shepherd says

I read the old version of this book so I don't know what has been updated. I was apprehensive going into it as I have heard mixed reviews. I will say that a few of the stories/ways he talks about things are somewhat abrasive. I don't agree with everything. However, there was a lot of content that was helpful to me in evaluating what discipline is appropriate in what circumstance. I think if you can look past the old fashioned outlook, take the good stuff and ignore what doesn't sit well, there is a lot of gold to be found.

Carolyn Burnam says

Read this book way back when my now, grown daughter was young and very strong willed (almost an understatement). Gave me some great insight and help, tho at times I wanted to send my daughter to Dr. Dobson as I was willing to bet he would write a whole new book. She was a challenging child and teenager to say the least!! I know there is "The New Strong-Willed Child"... might should buy this for her to read when she has children!!

Mark says

I pulled our old copy of this book off the shelves because I was looking for some guidance for dealing with our youngest, who is about a year and a half old. Although I think the general approach to discipline he advocates is quite sound, I was hoping to find more specifics for dealing with children at that young age. Sadly, kids that young are really not the focus of the book.

It is interesting to see the range of reviews in this book. Many of the very negative ones seem to come from two sources:

- People who are vehemently opposed to any form for corporal punishment; These will, of course, not approve of Dobson's belief that it is appropriate in some circumstances. Dobson repeatedly emphasizes the need for fairness, clear expectations, moderation, appropriateness, and parental self-control when giving such

punishment. He also continually drives home the fact that all such punishment must be within the framework of total love where a child *always* feels worthwhile, cared for, and safe. But there are many who equate physical punishment and child abuse, and all rational thought stops once they hear about spanking.

- People who disagree with Dr. Dobson because he is a Christian, or a conservative, or because he doesn't think homosexual behavior is healthy and must be promoted and affirmed; These people want to disagree with whatever else he says.

It is interesting, really, because he spends some time discussing Dr. Spock in this book. Dr. Spock wrote a very influential book on child-rearing back in the '50's. At the time of Dobson's book (the '70's), Spock was criticized by many for being too permissive, and encouraging parents to not be stern enough with their children. Dobson notes that many of Spock's critics were really mad at him (Dr. Spock) because he opposed the U.S.'s involvement in the Vietnam war and therefore they misrepresented what Dr. Spock wrote. Things have come full circle. Now Dr. Dobson is being accused of being too harsh, but you can often see their complaints are really not because of what he wrote in this book. It is obvious that some of his detractors are actually angry with him for opposing abortion, or divorce, or homosexual behavior, or some other pet cause they may have.

Kris says

I've never been a huge James Dobson or Focus on the Family fan (though my Dad is), but I thought this deserved a chance. I only got through the first chapters. I hated the mentality of children being trained like animals and forcing your child to bend their wills to yours. This was originally written in the 70s but it had a 50s mentality. Maybe the updated editions are better, but I couldn't stomach what I did read. Thanks for your ideas, but I think I'm in a happier place. Or maybe I just don't have your kind of kid. Or maybe... I'll stop. I don't need to be insulting.

Andrea says

worst parenting book ever! I would rate it at 0 stars if I could.

This book is not about helping your child to develop any sense of internal discipline at all, merely about how to beat your child in a battle of wills.

The author even advocates smacking a child! This is illegal in my country and all the scientific research backs up how wrong this is. It teaches children that violence and intimidation are OK. It is known even to lower IQs I am shocked how backward and unenlightened this author is.

Words can not convey what a truly awful parenting method this is, which is an easy road admittedly, but with disastrous long term effects. Normally I can not ever throw a book out, but I couldn't bring myself to inflict this on any child so it goes straight in the recycling bin. I'm totally disgusted with it.

If you want a good book on parenting strong willed children, check out instead anything by Howard Glasser, particularly "transforming the difficult child: the nurtured heart approach".

Hannah says

S2V1L1

Julie says

This book is vomit in word form. I feel sad for all the spirited children whose parents take this book as scripture.

rachel says

You will be blinded if you don't obey your parents.
