

It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends (The Family Library)

By Robie H. Harris



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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.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 3-Harris opens by introducing two cartoon characters-a greenfeathered bird clad in a purple shirt and blue high-top sneakers and his spike-haired friend, a bee. They wonder, So where DO babies come from? Their conversational commentary, given in word balloons, is a lighthearted supplement to a more focused narrative. Told in the second person, the text is straightforward, informative, and personable. Facts are presented step-by-step, starting from the similarities and differences between boys and girls bodies, moving to a babys conception, growth in the womb, and birth, ending with an exploration of different configurations of families as well as a section on okay versus not okay touches. The book is logically organized into 23 double-page sections. Friendly and relaxed cartoons, either interspersed with the text or appearing in comic-strip form, are integral to the titles success in imparting the material. The labeled drawings show both the outside and the inside parts of the body. As the bee and bird say to one another, Knowing the names of ALL the parts of your body is-PERFECTLY NORMAL! Overall, this book will be accessible to its intended audience, comforting in its clarity and directness, and useful to a wide range of readers.-Martha Topol, Traverse Area District Library, Traverse City, MI

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From **Booklist**

Starred Review K-Gr. 3. Harris and Emberley's It's Perfectly Normal (1994) and It's So Amazing (1999), sex-ed books for pubescent and prepubescent readers, respectively, are among today's most frequently challenged titles. Their newest targets kids closer to potty training than puberty, but like its predecessors, it will undoubtedly raise as many hackles as it attracts words of praise. Some controversial elements in the previous books have been toned down or left out here; there are no images of unclothed adults or references to masturbation, abortion, and birth control. But what remains will still widen many eyes: pictures of nude children with body parts exhaustively labeled; text about the "kind of loving [that] happens when . . . the man's penis goes inside the woman's vagina" that candidly expresses what the accompanying under-theblankets visual leaves to the imagination. Emberley's affectionate, mood-lightening cartoons keep things approachable, while Harris' respectful writing targets children's natural curiosity without cloaking matters in obfuscating language. Based on its length and detail, the book's advertised intent to reach children as young as four seems optimistic. All the same, this will smoothly adapt to the needs of individual families, who will want to choose among the three options based less on assigned age ranges than on personal comfort levels with the topics addressed. For another forthright but less-comprehensive book, suggest Dori Hillestad Butler's My Mom's Having a Baby! (2005). Jennifer Mattson

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About the Author

ROBIE H. HARRIS began her career as a teacher at the Bank Street College of Education's School for Children. She started writing books for children in the 1970s and has numerous titles to her credit. Among them are the award-winning and internationally acclaimed books about sexual health for older children: IT'S SO AMAZING! A BOOK ABOUT EGGS, SPERM, BIRTH, BABIES, AND FAMILIES for children age seven and up and IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL: CHANGING BODIES, GROWING UP, SEX, AND SEXUAL HEALTH for children age ten and up, which won her the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association Award for Outstanding Educator. She is also the well-known author of HAPPY BIRTH DAY!, HI NEW BABY!, and three picture books in the Growing Up series, all illustrated by Michael Emberley, as well as GOODBYE MOUSIE, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, and DON'T FORGET

TO COME BACK!, illustrated by Harry Bliss.

MICHAEL EMBERLEY is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. He is the illustrator of many books for children, including several collaborations with Robie H. Harris: IT'S SO AMAZING, IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL, HAPPY BIRTH DAY!, HI NEW BABY!, and three picture books in the Growing Up series, books that tell stories and facts about the first five years of life.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Minerva Gagliano:

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Larry Parrish:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question since just their can do this. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends (The Family Library) to read.

Theodore Parish:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends (The Family Library), it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Lois Bottoms:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you

know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important along with book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update regarding something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends (The Family Library).

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