

# When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury

By Sony Khemlani-Patel PhD, Merry McVey-Noble PhD, Fugen Neziroglu PhD ABBP ABPP



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# A Compassionate Guide for Parents

As a parent, what's harder to deal with than seeing your child in pain? It's especially frustrating when you feel like you've exhausted the resources you could use to help him or her stop hurting. And if your child is cutting or engaging in another form of self-injury, a behavior that you simply can't make any sense of in the first place, this feeling of helplessness can be unbearable.

This book offers you information and advice for dealing with a child who is hurting him or herself. Learn why self-injury happens, how to identify it, and how to address this sensitive topic with calm and confidence. Follow the book's clear and simple plan for communicating with your child about this problem. Connect with the best kinds of professional help to get him or her through this painful time. Above all, rely on this compassionate and clinically sound book to give you the one thing you really need when your child is in pain-hope.

- Learn about the causes and effects of self-injury
- Identify the signs of self-harm
- Communicate effectively with a child who is hurting him or herself
- Choose the best professional help
- Support your child's recovery



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#### **Editorial Review**

Review

"When Your Child Is Cutting is an excellent resource for both parents and professionals. It presents the facts about cutting and how to manage this problem. It is written in an accessible and readable format. The book takes a good deal of the fear out of dealing with cutting behaviors and provides a needed appendix of frequently asked questions. This text is pragmatic and to the point and can be of real help to many concerned parents and health service providers.

—Robert W. Motta, Ph.D., ABPP, director of the Doctoral Program in School-Community Psychology at Hofstra University

"I remember the first time I had to say "self-mutilation." I was so naïve. I quickly learned all that this diagnosis entailed. It meant that my daughter and I would be at odds through her early and mid-teens. It meant late night emergency rooms and psychiatric wards. And, for me, it meant anger, guilt, sadness, failure, hopelessness, loneliness—but mostly it meant fear.

"But slowly, ever so slowly, the rain stopped, the clouds lifted, and the sun was visible. It has been four and a half years now. The sun shines; my daughter and I walk hand in hand. Don't get me wrong. There are cloudy days. But when it rains, my daughter has an umbrella and knows how to use it. The umbrella is the key—not the weather.

"First, I had to accept my daughter's emotional problems. Then I had to accept and believe that they were real. Then I had to make a commitment to give whatever it took, at whatever cost. But I believed in Dr. McVey. I still have a piece of her notepaper hanging on my refrigerator with the words, "This will not last forever."

"I believed in her, in my daughter, and in myself. Every month now, without fail, we celebrate the day my daughter stopped cutting. It has been fifty-five months now. And every month is as important as the last."

—S.S., client of author McVey-Noble

"My divorce hit both of my daughters hard. They were two and five at the time. My older daughter later reacted by being afraid of going to school and by expressing other anxiety behaviors. My younger daughter, Naomi, reacted by being the "good little girl." When I had to travel, or when I would come home late after a nighttime presentation for my job, I'd find a paper plate pressed with lipstick-kisses on my pillow. Naomi was five then. During the summer when she was fourteen she began cutting herself.

"We tried to get help from a couple of therapists with limited success. Then, as luck—or God—would have

it (I truly do believe in divine intervention), I was talking to a colleague who needed to find an alternative school for her daughter. I told her about the school my older daughter went to. She told me her daughter cut herself and gave me Dr. McVey's phone number. That's how I found help.

"Naomi saw Dr. McVey twice a week. This gave her the support and insights she needed to control the cutting. Dr. McVey encouraged Naomi to call her, even beyond office hours, when she needed her. Naomi learned how to release the pressure valve of her own feelings when they threatened to boil over. She learned to understand her feelings so that she could manage and live with them."

—J.D., client of author McVey-Noble

### From the Publisher

This much-needed book acquaints parents of children and adolescents who cut themselves with the signs and causes of self-injury and offers strategies for communicating about the issue and getting kids the help they need to overcome this dangerous behavior.

About the Author

**Merry E. McVey-Noble, Ph.D.**, is a psychologist at the Bio-Behavioral Institute in Great Neck, NY, where she treats a number of adolescents and adults who engage in self-injurious behaviors. She is adjunct professor of psychology at Hofstra University, where she has taught for ten years.

**Sony Khemlani-Patel, Ph.D.**, is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Bio-Behavioral Institute in Great Neck, NY, where she specializes in the treatment and research of obsessive-compulsive spectrum, anxiety, and mood disorders as well as self-injury. She received her doctorate from Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY.

**Fugen Neziroglu, Ph.D., ABBP**, is a board-certified cognitive and behavior psychologist, involved in the research and treatment of anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders, trichotillomania, hoarding, body dysmorphic disorder and hypochondriasis at the Bio-Behavioral Institute in Great Neck, NY. She is coauthor of *Overcoming Compulsive Hoarding*.

## **Users Review**

#### From reader reviews:

# Trisha Sherman:

This When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury without we recognize teach the one who reading it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

#### Sandra Williams:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that may be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still uncertainty When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury as good book not merely by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't determine book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

#### **Bertha Montes:**

This When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury is new way for you who has intense curiosity to look for some information since it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know otherwise you who still having small amount of digest in reading this When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books develop itself in the form that is certainly reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book form. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is absolutely no in reading a guide especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So, don't miss it! Just read this e-book kind for your better life in addition to knowledge.

#### Gene Baker:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got students? We believe that that question was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And also you know that little person such as reading or as studying become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update regarding something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is this When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury.

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