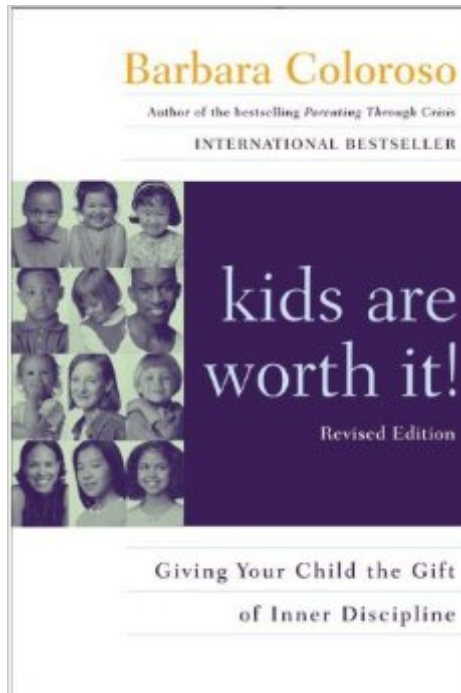


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Kids Are Worth It! : Giving Your Child The Gift Of Inner Discipline



Synopsis

The parenting classic, now revised with new chapters, checklists, and information about today's most pressing issues regarding our children. This bestselling guide rejects "quick-fix" solutions and focuses on helping kids develop their own self-discipline by owning up to their mistakes, thinking through solutions, and correcting their misdeeds while leaving their dignity intact. Barbara Coloroso shows these principles in action through dozens of examples -- from sibling rivalry to teenage rebellion; from common misbehaviors to substance abuse and antisocial behavior. She also explains how to parent strong-willed children, effective alternatives to time-outs, bribes, and threats, and how to help kids resolve disputes and serious injustices such as bullying. Filled with practical suggestions for handling the ordinary and extraordinary tribulations of growing up, kids are worth it! helps you help your children grow into responsible, resilient, resourceful adults -- not because you tell them to, but because they want to.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As another, more supercilious reviewer notes, the ideas in this book are similar to the work of the developmental psychologist Diane Baumrind. However, this in no way detracts from the value of the book for three reasons: First, it means that the ideas are based on scientifically supported ideas. Second, explaining parenting styles only takes up one chapter at the beginning, then Coloroso builds on the ideas with her own. And third, comparing the presentation of Coloroso's books, tapes, and videos with reading a scientific paper is silly! ...Most people will neither have access to, nor enjoy reading dry academic papers.. And they are not likely to be able to suddenly derive from

them, the kind of carefully thought out and articulated system of parenting that Coloroso offers. From concrete examples as well as abstract ideas, this book will help you incorporate commonly held goals of parenting into real-life interactions with your kids. This is not a book on just one concept or how to handle one particular parenting problem, but a way of thinking about parenting that makes each concrete situation so much more clear cut. You will like her style if you value giving kids BOTH a warm, respectful, open relationship where they can feel safe to be themselves and develop their own unique identity, AND an environment with strong clear boundaries where they can grow to understand how to make healthy compassionate choices for themselves and those they care about... And if you are tired of books by "experts" who have never been parents. This book grew out of Coloroso's lectures, which grew out of her own teaching and parenting experiences, and it is clear that she "has been there" and she practices what she preaches.

I'd like to give this book 3.5 stars. I bought three parenting books at the same time from : Kids, Parents, and Power Struggles; How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk; and Kids Are Worth It! and read them in that order. When I first started Kids Are Worth It!, I was only 10 pages into it and put it down for a couple of weeks. I had a hard time with the intro because it felt condescending and harsh at times. (Ironically, it was like I was being lectured by a parent.) I understand that approach might work well for the author when she speaks publicly, but in print it feels like a turn-off. I was determined to read the book though, so I picked it up again and started feeling more positive toward the book when it explained the three different types of families: Brick-wall, jellyfish, and backbone. Some people object to this book because they feel there are more than three types of families, but the book acknowledges that some families will be a "patchwork of all three" (p. 39). This makes sense to me because I grew up in a family that falls mostly in the brick-wall category but has some features of a jellyfish-b. At times the author does make it sound like all brick-wall (or jellyfish) families have the same exact traits she writes about, but that would be impossible because each family is unique. The descriptions of brick-wall and jellyfish families are general and should only be used as guidelines. Somewhere around the middle of the book, it starts feeling a little random because sections start popping up about all kinds of stuff. A lot of it is helpful, but some of it may only apply to a certain group of parents (like the section on potty training).

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