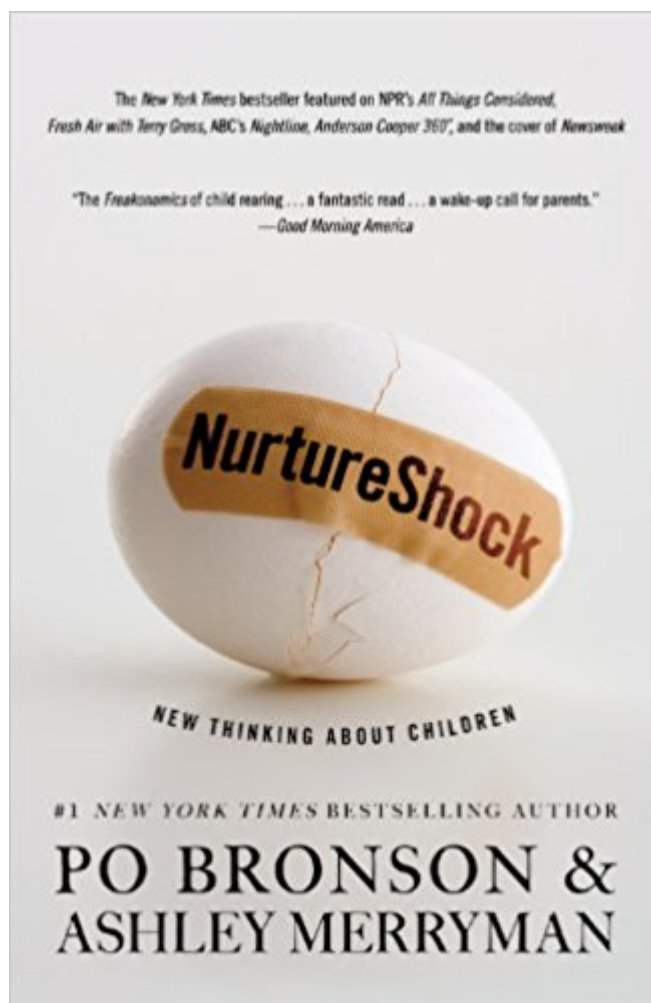


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# NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children



## Synopsis

One of the most influential books about children ever published, *Nurture Shock* offers a revolutionary new perspective on children that upends a library's worth of conventional wisdom. With impeccable storytelling and razor-sharp analysis, the authors demonstrate that many of modern society's strategies for nurturing children are in fact backfiring--because key twists in the science have been overlooked. Nothing like a parenting manual, *Nurture Shock* gets to the core of how we grow, learn and live. Released in hardcover in September 2009, *Nurture Shock* remained on the New York Times best seller list for three months, and was one of 's best selling books for 2009. The book has become a worldwide phenomenon with editions published around the world - in fifteen languages, to date. In addition to Bronson and Merryman's writings on praise -- first made famous in *New York* magazine -- there are nine more equally groundbreaking chapters. Among the topics covered: Why the most brutal person in a child's life is often a sibling, and how a single aspect of their preschool-aged play can determine their relationship as adults. When is it too soon - or too late - to teach a child about race? Children in diverse schools are less likely to have a cross-racial friendship, not more - so is school diversity backfiring? Millions of families are fighting to get their kids into private schools and advanced programs as early as possible. But schools are missing the best kids, 73% of the time - the new neuroscience explains why. Why are kids - even those from the best of homes - still aggressive and cruel? The answer is found in a rethinking of parental conflict, discipline, television's unexpected influence, and social dominance. Parents are desperate to jump-start infants' language skills. Recently, scientists have discovered a series of natural techniques that are astonishing in their efficacy - it's not baby videos, sign language, or even the richness of language exposure. It's nothing you've heard before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The central premise of this book by Bronson (*What Should I Do with My Life?*) and Merryman, a Washington Post journalist, is that many of modern society's most popular strategies for raising children are in fact backfiring because key points in the science of child development and behavior have been overlooked. Two errant assumptions are responsible for current distorted child-rearing habits, dysfunctional school programs and wrongheaded social policies: first, things work in children the same way they work in adults and, second, positive traits necessarily oppose and ward off negative behavior. These myths, and others, are addressed in 10 provocative chapters that cover such issues as the inverse power of praise (effort counts more than results); why insufficient sleep adversely affects kids' capacity to learn; why white parents don't talk about race; why kids lie; that evaluation methods for giftedness and accompanying programs don't work; why siblings really fight (to get closer). Grownups who trust in old-fashioned common-sense child-rearing—the definitely un-PC variety, with no negotiation or parent-child equality—will have less patience for this book than those who fear they lack innate parenting instincts. The chatty reportage and plentiful anecdotes belie the thorough research backing up numerous cited case studies, experts' findings and examination of successful progressive programs at work in schools. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Reviewers were generally wowed by Bronson and Merryman's breezy synthesis of the latest parenting research. They often favorably contrasted *NurtureShock* with traditional parenting guides, which seem old-fashioned compared with the authors' cutting-edge approach. But at least one skeptic felt that *NurtureShock* was just more of the same; the New York Times Book Review noted that every generation has a "revolutionary" book of parental advice, and this one may only seem novel because of a new kind of packaging. Nevertheless, even Pamela Paul found parts of the book interesting, suggesting that there may indeed be something in *NurtureShock* for everyone. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*Nurture Shock* is as easy to read as a novel and equally riveting. Seldom have I encountered so

much valuable and useful information in such an easy-to-digest form. Much that is counter-intuitive: praising a child's intelligence makes him less likely to try difficult problems. At the same time, the explanation makes perfect sense. Very few books deserve 5 stars. This is one of the,

It was entertaining and I learned some things, but it was light and not as much information as I expected. I am a counselor and I work primarily with kids and their parents. I found the book interesting, but not really helpful for my practice. It is accessible for most people, though, and not just for professionals. I would recommend it to some of my parents.

The authors of this book do an excellent job of debunking previous paradigms of child-rearing, while paying them respect for their thought logic. It makes sense why they are not true in light of the really into research that is cited in this book. Not judgmental towards parents at all. Very sincere in their goal to provide parents and caretakers with knowledge that will deeply benefit their children immediately and in the long-term.

Really liked this evidence based book. It is not a parenting philosophy--just a selection of topics that will come up in your parenting, and what the evidence suggests is the best thing to do. Some of the stuff was surprising!

Honestly, I haven't finished this book yet (about 1/2 way through) but it's so great. I originally checked it out from the library, thinking it would be a good one-time read. I quickly realized though that I needed my own copy of this book to mark up and reference in the future, so I purchased. The best thing I can say about this book is that while it corrects your (mistaken) assumptions, it does so kindly and without putting the reader down. I don't know how they do it, because while I can explain some of the concepts very easily with the same facts and data, when I do it, it comes across as "you've been doing this wrong," while in the book it never does. I also love their real-world advice and applications. Both authors are, I believe, parents, and they frequently reference towards the end of each chapter how they took their learnings and applied it to their own children. I found these to be the most helpful parts of the books (and the ones that I will mark for future reference.) For example, when talking about education, they highlight a program and talk about its principles. After hearing about the great results, I look up if there are any schools in my area offering this program, but there unfortunately aren't. However, the authors talk about they personally implemented the ideas from the program with their own children (for example, having the child review his own work and grading

himself), which I found to be incredibly useful. While one could read the book and figure out how to apply the learnings in real life, I like that the authors (who are presumably more knowledgeable than me), have already done that for me.

Worth reading for any parent whether you agree or not with all the material (the content is not prescriptive though and presents the viewpoints and results of a number studies, considered in the context of wanting to positively influence your child). This book covers the broad spectrum of parenting and all the apparent contradictions that arise as you seek the best way to bring up your child. It offers an excellent frame of reference for thinking about what approach you might want to take as a parent and how you might want to go about making it happen.

This book is not a guide or "how to" but a source of information based on studies and fact. As with all things you ingest the information and apply what works for you and your family. Some things take time to see results and I found that the points made on discussing why children lie were eye opening! This is a great resource and I encourage you to consider the ownership of this book if your openminded and are able to do self analysis of your parenting skills. If you find what your doing is not working then take a look at the science of human nature vs. nurture!

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