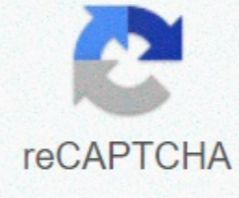




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It's PERFECT NORMAL Body Change, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health 20th Anniversary Edition-Completely Updated For Today's Kids and Teens Candlewick Press, September 2014 Illustration by Michael Emberley The latest edition of IT'S PERFECT NORMAL now includes the most up-to-date information- including information on how to stay safe and healthy on the Internet- that children and adolescents today need to take responsible decision-making for sexual health. Click here for more information on this latest version: Download it's PERFECT NORMAL anniversary dashboard starting the day when I'm sitting in an editor's office. He asked me if I wanted to write a book on HIV and AIDS for elementary school age children. I never intended to write a book on the subject, but I had an immediate response. I told the editor that if I wrote a book on the subject, I would write a comprehensive book on sexual health that, of course, would include HIV and AIDS. I told him that children and adolescents needed to know about the virus, but they also needed to know a lot of other things about their changing bodies, growing up, sexual, and sexual health to stay healthy. That night at dinner, I told my family about my idea for this book and asked my husband and children what should be in a book about sexual health for children 10 and older. My children were in high school. And that started my research, which continued for five years it finished this book. That evening, I called some of my child's elementary school teachers (including their science teacher), the mailer, some pediatricians I knew, people in the field of birth health, and parents who were friends. Over the next few weeks, I met each of them and I asked them the same question I asked my family: What should be in a book for children and adolescents about sexual health? Again, their thoughts and expertise are invaluable. While writing the book, I went back to these people several times, to make sure my truth was accurate and up-to-date and age-appropriate text. Their expertise and answers to endless questions are invaluable. That's because unless I really understand something good - be it a chromo chromo yes or a gene, or love or sadness - I can't write about it well. Every time I meet one of these professionals, I learn new and fascinating things that somehow slip into my book. When Michael Emberley created the art for this book, we showed it to the same professionals. This process went on throughout the creation of this book and it is the one I use for all my books, nonfiction and fiction. Perhaps this explains why it took years to create IT'S PERFECT NORMAL! I've been working on it for five years, and Michael Emberley has been working on it for almost three years! While working on the version for 20 20 days edition of IT'S PERFECT NORMAL and the 15th anniversary edition of IT'S SO AMAZING!, but again I've met experts to find out and figure out what needs to be updated in these new versions. I do this every time IT'S PERFECT NORMAL and two other books in this series, IT'S SO AMAZING! AND IT'S NOT THE STORK! is about to be re-published as a way to provide children and adolescents with the most up-to-date and accurate scientific and psychological information. School Library Journal (star review) The Horn Book (star rating) Print reviews and articles feature in: The New York Times Sunday Book Review, The Los Angeles Times, The Minneapolis Star Tribune, The Boston Globe, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Philadelphia Inquirer. The Century's Best Children's Books, San Francisco Chronicle, December 26 - January 1, 2000 A New York Times Sunday Book Review Notable Book of the Year, 1995 Publisher's Weekly Best Book of the Year School Library Journal Best Book of the Year Booklist Editors' Choice Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon winner (recommended starred review) American Library Association's Notable Children's Bookellers American Booksellers for Children Booksellers' Choice Parenting Reading Magic Award winner Public Library 100 Title for Reading and Sharing Choice Wil Solimene Award Winner of Excellence in Medical Communication Boston Globe Horn Book Winner In this smart, amiable and carefully researched book, Harris (Before You Were Three) candidly explains the physical, psychological, emotional and social changes that occur during puberty and the significance of these changes. In a conversational, relaxed tone, Harris also discussed topics such as sexual orientation, sexual reproduction, pregnancy, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual abuse. The author intentionally and effectively repeats some important information, especially on the topic of possible consequences of sexual intercourse. Playful and realistic rotation, (and sometimes graphic), Emberley's watercolor and pencil art (Ruby) reinforce Harris's message that bodies come in all sizes, shapes and colors, and each variant is 'perfectly normal.' The cartoons illustrate various complex processes (e.g., menstruation, fertilization of eggs, childbirth). Appearing on each spread are two characters—an easy-going bird and a scared bee-with comments that add levity to this solid mass. -Publishers Weekly (star rating), September 1994 This caring, dedicated, and well-crafted book will be a good library resource as well as a great back-up to the high school sex education program. There is no doubt, however, that some libraries and schools will have problems with Emberley's rich image, which, besides being warm and unsymed, is in a book for this age group. The bold cartoon drawings are very straightforward: a two-page spread of nudity, beautifully expressing the different shapes and sizes that humans come into; a picture of a couple having sex; one of the boys masturbates while sitting on the bed; Another girl examines her genitals in the mirror. Less controversial would be Emberley's useful diagram and running cartoon commentary he offers on the main text, provided by a shame bee and a curious bird (modern children may miss the appeal, and the device eventually wears thin). Harris's writing, as outspoken as Emberley's art, covers all issues that are thought to be age-appropriate (the structure of the fertility and puberty systems, for example), as well as a scale issues, and the puberty section should really discuss female as well as male orgasms – but this is one of the most unimimidating information books to accompany this age group. It's inspiring spreading of all the unclothed men and women bringing home a good message in a way that furtive peeks at magazines or classmates won't. The title of the book, It's Perfect Normal, is a polite non-personal version of the statement young readers really want to hear: you're perfectly normal. -The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books (star rating), October 1994 Teens may prefer more information about sex, but it's not always easy for us parents to offer it! Now there is a new book that provides candid, up-to-date and reassuring information with interesting, but accurate animation illustrations. It's Perfect Normal (Let's Talk About Sex) covers everything from puberty and conception to birth control and AIDS. -BEST Illustrator Emberley (Welcome Back, Sun, 1993, etc.) has teamed up with Harris (Hot Henry, 1987, etc.) to present more ethnic and sexual diversity than New York City's Rainbow curriculum ever bargained for when they fought all the non-pc concepts: They have swings at age (People have sex well into old age) and at homophobia in the army out that , in ancient Sparta, it was thought that if a warrior was in the same regiment as his lover, he would fight harder to impress him). But there is more polemic information here, s readers are guided by a pair of corny but never consular - a bird without sex and a suppressed wasp - through puberty, anatomy, reproduction, and a sense of the emotional weight that comes with sex. The smart books include birth control options, how to have safer sex, how to treat STDs, and, in a particularly impressive chapter, how to combat sexual abuse - all without patrons before or after puberty. Emberley's illustrations are often as funny as they are. With assertions of homosexuality and masturbation - which is perfectly normal - and a choice tilted (yet cautiously) discussing abortion, this volume will be anathema to social conservatism. But for parents who fear that a sex-ed school class may not have enough information, it will certainly support that fear of birds and bee discussion. An excellent teaching tool that can only help slow the spread of sexual aies and proving. -Kirkus Comment (recommended and pointer), September 15, 1994... Sophisticated, Comprehensive, Reassuring... -USA Today, March 31, 1998 A book about sex that manages to be honest without losing a sense of humor. The animation style illustrations are witty, expressed and accurate. -The New York Times Sunday Book Review, Notable Books of the Year December 3, 1995 Pubescence is quirky and unpredictable, filled with individual variations on a universal theme. Too many children's manuals have diagrammed their gender and - or worse, romanticize those topics. But in It's Perfectly Normal: A Book About Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health author, Robie H. Harris, and the illustrator, Michael Emberley,

manage to be honest without losing their sense of humor. Ms. Harris's writing is official, extensive and forthright; Mr. Emberley's image is un formal, broad, candid, and humorous. No reality or image is too embarrassing for them to put on. If you doubt me, just turn to page 23 and check the girl looking upside down into a mirror to locate her anus, vagina, and urethra – all clear to the reader. Other pages discuss and describe penis sizes, different abilities to control reproduction and safe sex, and the different ways a baby can be born. The illustrations show a variety of anatomical shapes, ethnic variations and sexual persuasion. The design is a surprise of coordination and illustration information. This is cartooning at its best – witty, expressive, and accurate reflection of human antics. Perhaps the closest involving birds and bee duo who commented throughout It's Perfect Normal was the mammoth who chatted to readers in David Macauley's handbook The Way Things Work. In fact, It's Perfect Normal is a kind of human companion to Mr. Macauley's excellent explanation of mechanics. One of the advantages of the design of It's Perfect Normal is that the cartoon illustrations extend its appeal to readers of a fairly broad age despite the early teen book. A younger child can enjoy art while parents explain a change to the truth of life. An independent reader in the lower classes may seek definitions of both familiar and less familiar terms in privacy. Preadolescents can test their knowledge against what is so clearly proven here. And teenagers can smile while secretly learning what they need to know most about sexual survival in a world threatened by sexually transmitted diseases. -The New York Times Book Review, March 12, 1995 The candid tour of the truth of life is just a ticket for restless parents when it's time to explain birds and bees to their curious children. -People Magazine, May 15, 1995 This is a great sex education resource for teenagers and parents. The book is loaded with cartoon illustrations, including a cartoon centerfold on pp. 21-21 of people of different stages of development and body building. Characters Zany Bird and Bee make crude comments! I want to change now! - all things often speak when exposed to sex education materials. The chapters include an introductory discussion about gender, reproduction, libido, intercourse and sexual orientation. The handling of gay and female relationships is The second chapter on the human body and genital bodies is followed by one about puberty changes. Chapters on family and infants include a description of family types, different forms of communication and assertiveness about not touching and not having sex, as well as common teenage misconceptions that can lead to pregnancy. In-uterus development and the process of birth are covered in chapters about the family. A chapter on the Decision includes words encouraging young people to consider postponing sex and/or using contraception displayed and described in detail. Laws on abortion, sexual abuse issues and STDs follow. Overall, I see this as the best book resource on sex education for adolescents that I have seen in recent years, adapted for use with adolescents before normal and sexual harm. T. Berry Brazelton and Penelope Leach love it, too! -Psychologists' Announcer, January 2000 Finally... a book for young people about sex and reproduction in language they can understand, plus images they will enjoy. -Ann Landers A comprehensive and reassuring celebration of sexual reproduction, human sexuality and diversity that children, parents, educators and health professionals around the world would welcome. -Michael McGee Vice President of Education, Parenthood Planning Federation of America, Inc. An absolutely amazing treatment of the consistently sensitive topic of sex education for young people. The book treats the topic seriously and its intended readers with respect. I sincerely recommend it to teenagers, parents and any other adult who wants a refresher course on the truth of life. -Hugh B. Price President, National Urban League, Inc. It's Perfect Normal for developing children an opportunity to read an honest look and explain their growing bodies. The text and images will give them an opportunity to understand and value themselves. I recommend [It's Perfect Normal] for parents and children who are going into a teen. They'll love it. -T. Berry Brazelton, M.D. Author of Touchpoints Finally! A book that shows teenagers and adolescents what they need to know about sex without turning off less sophisticated, turning on more sophisticated, or insulting the moral or sensitive values of parents and teachers. It's Perfect Normal is informable and interesting; peace of mind and responsibility; warm and charming. I wish every child (and parent) could have a copy. -Penelope Leach, PhD Author of Baby and Your Kids First This book is a must read for preteens and teenagers! It presents accurate, clear and scientific information about puberty and sexual health in a language where children can and will use important information that will they make wise choices and notice they need to make as they enter and go through puberty. -Angela Diaz, M.D., M.P.H. Professor pediatrics and community medicine, Director of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Mount Sinai Adolescent Medical Center, New York A family-friendly guide to everything your child has ever asked you about sex, but you are afraid to answer. With non-threatening illustrations, like cartoons and an actual text. It makes the whole topic accessible, engaging, and appropriate. Dr. Siegler (Director of the Institute for Children, Adolescents and Families Research in Manhattan) says. -Child Magazine A brief treatment of important information. Using a smart array of cartoons to liven up and expand text, Harris provides readers with a better understanding of the special role of sex in the human experience. Reproduction, puberty, and sexual and health manifestations are examined. Birth control, abortion, and homosexuality are treated frankly. Readers will enjoy these candid, but playful illustrations conveying a reassuring array of body types and ethnic groups. The creative use of a bird and a bee's response to themes throughout artfully contrasts with different views of bloomers sooner and later. What the author offers in scope, currency, and a fun attractive format is pretty special. An ideal introduction to coming of age. -School Library Journal, March 1995 1995

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