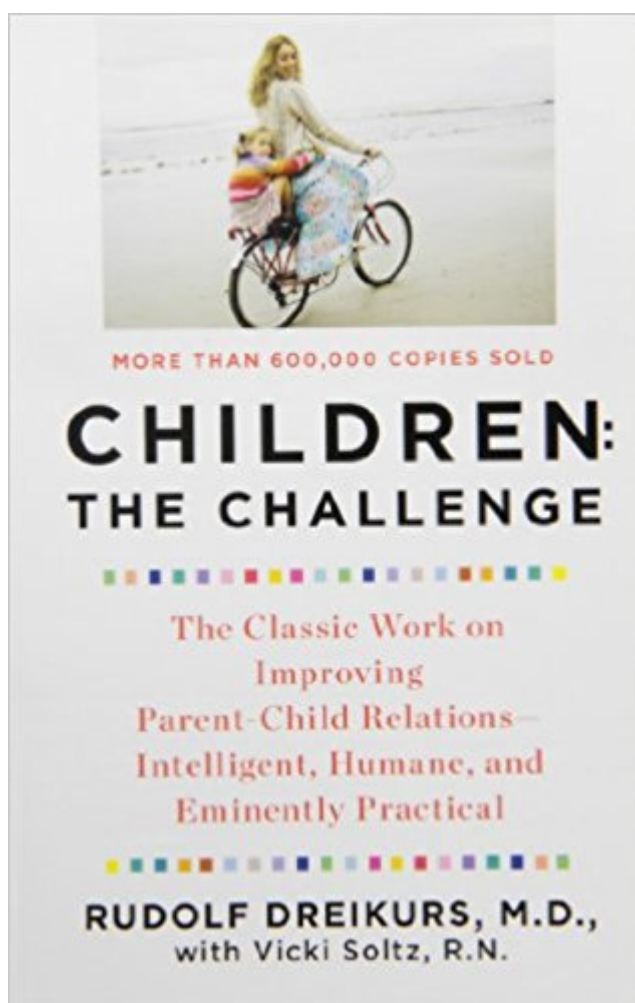


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# Children: The Challenge : The Classic Work On Improving Parent-Child Relations--Intelligent, Humane & Eminently Practical (Plume)



## Synopsis

Children: The Challenge gives the key to parents who seek to build trust and love in their families, and raise happier, healthier, and better behaved children. Based on a lifetime of experience with children—•their problems, their delights, their challenges—•Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs, one of America’s foremost child psychiatrists presents an easy to follow program that teaches parents how to cope with the common childhood problems that occur from toddler through preteen years. This warm and reassuring reference helps parents to understand their children’s actions better, giving them the guidance necessary to discipline lovingly and effectively.

## Book Information

Series: Plume

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Plume; Reissue edition (December 26, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452266556

ISBN-13: 978-0801590108

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 185 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #52,048 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Children’s Studies #245 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Child Psychology #254 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology

## Customer Reviews

Rudolf Dreikurs, M.D., was an eminent child-psychiatrist who practiced in Chicago. He was the author of many child-rearing and family guides.

This book is about old school parenting that works. I’ve read a number of other parenting books that quote CHILDREN: THE CHALLENGE. Being an older book, it is a bit longer than its more modern counterparts, as well as outdated in parts—but it’s still practical in its use today. If you want a faster summary of this book that feels fresh and easy to remember, then try IF I HAVE TO TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME. One of the biggest quotes from this book’s over 300 pages is, “never do for

children what they can do for themselves. It's pretty much the premise of the book, on how to achieve just that. The goal is to build autonomous and well-adjusted children, ones not prone to dependency, physical or emotional. At times, the book does come across a bit "do or die" in its methodology; IF I HAVE TO TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME seems to add a little more nurturing to the equation set forth here. After reading both books, it is evident that CHILDREN: THE CHALLENGE did the research footwork with actual test subjects and IF I HAVE TO TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME condensed, modernized, and eased the method. Everything in this book makes sense and works for the most part. One thing that really irked me was in the chapter about minding your own business. I get it. Sometimes teachers, other parents, and care providers have intentions we don't get. However, if my kid comes back with a bloody nose at the cause of your hand, I'm not going to sit idly by and say, "ho hum". Really. That's what this book says to do. And later teach your kid how to avoid such discipline. I don't think so. But don't let that mar your impression of this book, because except for that one part, most of the advice is rock solid. Based on the huge amount of useful, practical, and most importantly working advice I received, I'm giving this five stars.

I found that my toddler and I engaged in power struggles on a daily basis. Everyone told me it was normal, but it still didn't feel comfortable. This book completely solved the struggles in a matter of days, and I can see that the results of our new team-based family dynamic will help us greatly in the years ahead (the teen years come to mind). This book and the ones by Faber and Mazlish really help turn difficult family dynamics into teamwork. One caveat for the book: since it was written in the early 60's, it contains many example stories of parents using corporal punishment as a way to "train" their kids. While the author specifically hopes that parents not use corporal punishment, it's still disconcerting to read about all the "whuppin's". Also, one chapter in particular should just be deleted/ignored: Chapter 26, "Mind Your Own Business". It tells parents to ignore kids' requests for help in dealing with abusive situations - yikes!

I am typically not a fan of the, "Here's how to parent," books, so I resisted this one for a while despite recommendations from people I trust. However, after reading and incorporating the theories into my interactions with my kids, I have to admit - the difference is dramatic, and shocking. But in a good way. Of course, it was written in 1964 and you have to accommodate for that. There are things

in the book I don't agree with, advice given that I would never follow. If a three-week old baby cries? Go to him. And your kids? Are not your friends. Also, there are times when he takes a very condescending tone, as though parents are bumbling idiots, instead of well-intentioned people doing the best they can in a very difficult situation. But if your ego can handle a little bruising, and you can think for yourself and separate baby from bathwater, there are some excellent strategies in this book for dealing with kids. I think my results were so dramatic because this book spoke specifically to where I was lacking as a parent - I'm extremely over-protective to the point of coddling - and in three days I'm doing less work and they're happier (with the exception of the occasional and short-lived tantrum in the face of change) and overall, much better behaved. Total win-win. If you're a frustrated parent, especially of young children, I'd strongly recommend giving this a read.

this book has been reference book since I started teaching 38 years ago. I had given my book to a needy family and replaced it immediately!! i am so pleased to have it !!

When my first child was small, a favorite aunt gave me this book. It really helped me many a time. When my daughter had a child of her own, I bought her this book. I feel it's a wonderful tool for child raising, using common sense, understanding, natural consequences, and with respectfulness for the little being you're raising to make his/her own way in the world.

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