The Transgender Child: A Handbook For Families And Professionals

“This vital book fills a profound social need by giving parents of transgender children basic information about who those children may be. It will mitigate feelings of isolation, not only affording insight, but also paving the way for compassion.”

—Andrew Solomon, author of The Noonday Demon

A Handbook for Families and Professionals

Stephanie Brill and Rachel Pepper

Foreword by Dr. Norman P. Spack, MD

“A must read.”

—Trevor N. Sillie, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, SUNY

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This comprehensive first of its kind guidebook explores the unique challenges that thousands of families face every day raising their children in every city and state. Through extensive research and interviews, as well as years of experience working in the field, the authors cover gender variance from birth through college. What do you do when your toddler daughter’s first sentence is that she’s a boy? What will happen when your preschool son insists on wearing a dress to school? Is this ever just a phase? How can you explain this to your neighbors and family? How can parents advocate for their children in elementary schools? What are the current laws on the rights of transgender children? What do doctors specializing in gender variant children recommend? What do the therapists say? What advice do other families who have trans kids have? What about hormone blockers and surgery? What issues should your college-bound trans child be thinking about when selecting a school? How can I best raise my gender variant or transgender child with love and compassion, even when I barely understand the issues ahead of us? And what is gender, anyway? These questions and more are answered in this book offering a deeper understanding of gender variant and transgender children and teens.

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Customer Reviews
This is a wonderful book! The Transgender Child is the first of its kind - a thoughtful manual for parents and caregivers of transgender children, written by one of our country’s most respected gender therapists and an experienced researcher and author of books related to the GLBT
community and gender variance. Detailed, up-to-date, and easy to read, this book should be the prime resource for parents of transgender children and teens, and anyone who deals with them. The Transgender Child includes a Foreword by Dr. Norman Spack, our country’s leading expert on the care and treatment of transgender children and youth. It is followed by a series of chapters dealing with all aspects of how to deal with the child, their family and friends, their schools and school administrators and staff. Also included are excellent chapters on medical care and legal issues unique to these children. Everyone who deals with a transgender child should have and read a copy of this book. It is especially valuable when dealing with those unfamiliar with the transgender experience - whether they are family members, neighbors, teachers, or the local Department Family Services. The Transgender Child adds the authority of leading professionals to any discussion of the child’s care and treatment. I recommend it highly!

This book was recommended to me by an Aunt after we sent out an email letting our family and friends know that our daughter would now be living as our son. I can not tell you enough how many questions this book answered and how much comfort it gave me to know that my questions weren’t unique they were common. And when it came time for our son to attend school as his new self this book went along for the ride. I offered it to teachers, principals, and any other person who seemed to need more information and understanding. The best part was this book does not point a finger or try to change peoples religious or political views which I sometimes find pushes people away from excepting. Instead this book just gives the facts, it tells you the details of everything on what to expect, how to talk to doctors, and what the laws are for trans children. My favorite part was at the end when it gave letter examples that your local doctor could follow to hand out to schools and other areas where you might need one. This book has become my guide and I reference it often.

The other reviews were on the money. This book is great! As a transman, I recommend this book for anyone who has a trans friend, relative, child, sibling or just wants to understand trans more. It is informative and sensitive, brings you to the level of the trans person’s experience. It helps cisgender individuals with how to deal with the emotions and process of grief, understanding, and support. I bought and read this with plans to give it to my family when I come out to them. Hopefully it will help them through their personal journey.

This is the best book I’ve read on Transgender Children. It has valuable information, and is wonderful to share with schools, doctors, etc (I purchased extras to give away as needed). It was
written in a manner that is easily understood, as well as including great resources.

As a pastor, our congregation has been supporting a family whose teenager is transitioning. The book was a basic resource to help us understand more about that journey and ways that we could be supportive.

This book is truly wonderful. It has all the basic information that folks need to know to understand the concept of transgender kids, but also goes into depth and provides specific strategies for dealing with the host of issues and problems that transkids and their parents, families, and friends have to address. As the parent of a transkid myself, this was my first major resource to gather information and understanding, and I have ordered more than a dozen copies over the past several years to give to teachers, principals, afterschool program supervisors, family members, and friends who needed to understand the big picture. This book is essential for anyone who needs to know more themselves, or who needs to educate others to help protect and support trans children.

"The Transgender Child" goes through the current psychological research surrounding raising transgender and gender variant children. Main message: love your child. It then goes through the legal precautions you may consider, as well as how to make sure your child's school is working hard in his/her best interest. It is clear and straightforward. I loved all of the quotes and messages from transgender children and their families. I think they could have used more research references. The section on the education system was helpful to me, although I think that more training is necessary in addition to this book.

This is certainly a helpful book for parents who are just coming to terms with their children's gender expression. However, if you've been doing research on your own already you may find this book too basic for your needs. Also, as it was published in 2008 it could use some updating— a LOT has changed since then in the trans-world! Overall a great place to start.

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