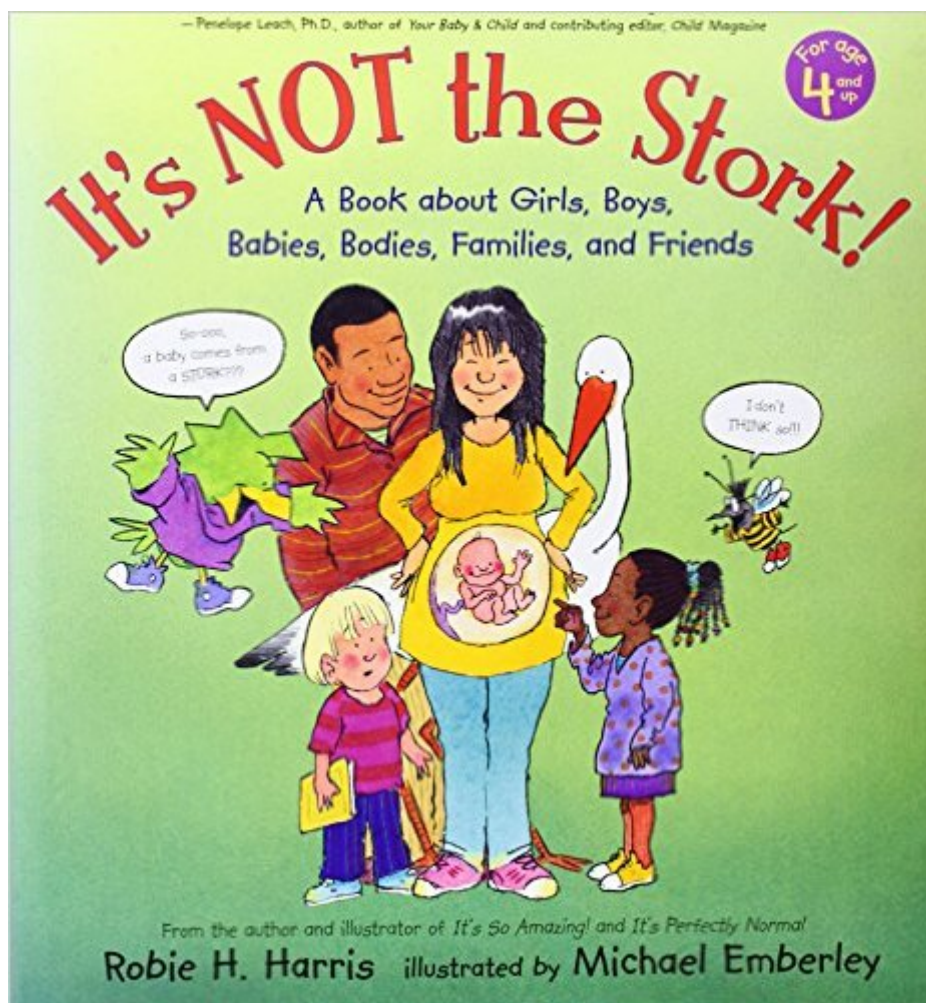


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# It's Not The Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families And Friends (The Family Library)



## Synopsis

From the expert team behind *IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL* and *IT'S SO AMAZING!* comes a book for younger children about their bodies — a resource that parents, teachers, librarians, health care providers, and clergy can use with ease and confidence. Young children are curious about almost everything, especially their bodies. And young children are not afraid to ask questions. What makes me a girl? What makes me a boy? Why are some parts of girls' and boys' bodies the same and why are some parts different? How was I made? Where do babies come from? Is it true that a stork brings babies to mommies and daddies? *IT'S NOT THE STORK!* helps answer these endless and perfectly normal questions that preschool, kindergarten, and early elementary school children ask about how they began. Through lively, comfortable language and sensitive, engaging artwork, Robie H. Harris and Michael Emberley address readers in a reassuring way, mindful of a child's healthy desire for straightforward information. Two irresistible cartoon characters, a curious bird and a squeamish bee, provide comic relief and give voice to the full range of emotions and reactions children may experience while learning about their amazing bodies. Vetted and approved by science, health, and child development experts, the information is up-to-date, age-appropriate, and scientifically accurate, and always aimed at helping kids feel proud, knowledgeable, and comfortable about their own bodies, about how they were born, and about the family they are part of.

## Book Information

Series: The Family Library

Hardcover: 64 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 0.5 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (396 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #36,339 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Sexuality #87 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

## Customer Reviews

This book does a great job of explaining a lot of technical information about the proper name of sexual body parts and explains in exhausting detail how a baby develops from the joining of an egg and sperm. The no-holds-barred cartoon pictures of naked kids are perfect. But they really drop the ball with the page that explains how the sperm gets into the woman. They introduce sex as a "special kind of loving" with a picture of a couple in bed having what looks like the most amazingly fun cuddle fest complete with little hearts all over the place (picture attached). There're several problems with this; 1) my 6 year old step daughter is constantly complaining that she shouldn't have to sleep alone and very jealous of the other adults in her life that get to cuddle and enjoy special love without her in their beds. This picture isn't going to help. 2) It's vague and misleading and says that when a man and woman get "close together" the "penis goes inside the woman" which makes it sound like all you have to do is get to close to a man in bed and his penis will just jump inside you. 3) It is a complete after thought really when they say that kids are too young for this "special kind of loving" 4) Doesn't "special kind of loving" sound exactly like the words a predator would use? And wouldn't they say "you're a big girl now, we can have special loving together" . . . (Ugh shuddering). We are thinking less information would be better at 6 years of age and rather than throw out the baby with the sex page we simply censored the one bad page with a taped on piece of construction paper.

Many people think that this book, and the topic of sex and sexuality, should be avoided until the child asks about it. They hope such questions will arise around puberty. **YOU SHOULD TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT SEX AND THEIR BODIES WHEN THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO WALK AND INTERACT WITH OTHER HUMANS.** Why? Because if you wait until puberty to talk about "parts" and "making love", kissing, etc., you're leaving thirteen years during which your child can and --10%+ for young boys and 20%+ for young girls--will get sexually abused by somebody who takes advantage of the fact that they don't know any better. This book is a blessing. In a not-too-graphic fashion, it depicts the differences between boys and girls, differences between men and women, and pregnancy. If you are uncomfortable teaching your toddler about sex, at the very least teach him/her the differences between boys and girls, and what is and isn't appropriate touching. As this book has nice cartoony but anatomically correct pictures of a naked boy and a naked girl, a parent can use it with a child of any age to \*at least\* show where is appropriate touching for which sex

without frightening the child. I would recommend holding off the actual sex part of the book until the child is around nine or ten, but please parents, you must be comfortable teaching your child about his or her own body and what is appropriate touching from anybody to your child and from your child to anybody else. With regards to content, the book uses simple text and real words. For example, "penis" and "vagina". I think parents ought to use these words with their children and teach them when it is appropriate to use them.

This book is amazing for all the reasons other reviewers indicated - it's realistic, accurate, but age-appropriate. I bought it for my 4.5 and 7.5 year-olds and they loved it. My daughter still reads it on her own at night unless her brother steals it back from her to read it. There's nothing inappropriate about this book if you realize how important it is to share accurate information with your children before they start learning ridiculous stories from their friends. I will admit that although I'm quite liberal, I was very nervous about getting this book and sharing the information with my kids. I wondered whether it was too much information and really admittedly I was personally uncomfortable talking about it. But I took the plunge and read a few pages to them each night - there is a lot of information and my 4.5 yr old only had the attention span for a few pages at a time (my son read on by himself but still looked forward to having me read it together with them each night). They had a lot of questions, all of which were answered by the book which made it much easier on me. What I realized was (a) the book did a way better job than I could have at explaining this stuff appropriately and accurately, (b) it was so much easier to discuss when I had the book and all the information right there, (c) I feared way more than what actually happened. When it got to the part about what sex is and how it happens, I was definitely nervous, but my fears never came up. Instead my daughter was completely disinterested and my son just said "Oh. That's weird." And that's it! And we moved on.

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