



Toddler Taming: A Survival Guide for Parents

Christopher Green

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At last here is practical advice--mixed with humor--for how to cope with those difficulties that turn your sweet baby into a holy terror, including: toilet training, tantrums and other tricks, sleep problems, fidgets, and more. Featuring special advice for working mothers and single parents, TODDLER TAMING strives to calm your fears, with advice that really works!

Toddler Taming: A Survival Guide for Parents Details

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Emma says

The thing I liked best about Dr Christopher Green's 'Toddler Taming' was the constant reminders to be realistic about what to expect from toddlers and to enjoy this stage of our children, there is, after all, so much wonder and magic in even the most difficult toddler.

I definitely found the earlier chapters more useful than the later ones, maybe because when I started reading this I was facing some of the 'terrible twos' with my own toddler, but on reading the book I soon realised these were minimal compared to what some parents faced and in fact, they soon passed on their own. For this reason, the book wasn't as great for me as it may be for others simply, because I didn't have the problems that the book was offering support to remedy (touch wood I won't need to go back to it!). However, I can see the logic and sense in much of what Dr Green suggests. I also like the way he presents his advice in a very non-judgemental way. Other parenting books very much put the onus on the parent and can seem to blame the parent for children's behaviours - not Dr Green!

Some of the later chapters seem to do little more than pay lip-service to topics, such as lone-parenting, working-parents, ADHD, grandparents. I am not sure they really add much value to the book, but then again, perhaps that is because these are not areas of concern for me.

Overall, I did like this book and will consider reading his follow-up book for the next stage of my children's development.

Elizabeth Saxon says

My manual that I heartily recommend to all parents. I love the way that we are constantly reassured that our children are generally as normal as they come, and how their misdemeanours are easily explained by our own actions, which are easily corrected! Presto! A manual for how to get nice children!

I was recommended it by a mum who had already used, and can vouch for its methodology. It has worked for all four of my children, so get it, relax, and enjoy your children more! :-)

Rachel says

If you don't have a 'problem child', beware of reading this book - generally patronising, sometimes just rude (on nutrition: if the parents are fat lazy slobs who never leave the couch, what hope is there for the children?) and full of comments that 'parents whose kids don't xyz particularly difficult behaviour in a given area are living the dream, they have a golden child and have no right to complain, ever'. I think the intention of such comments are meant to encourage the parents of the difficult child that yes, you have it harder than average in this particular area. But if you're on the other side of the fence you are likely to come out of it feeling completely invalidated.

The conversational style makes the book quite readable but unnecessarily long; at 400 pages it would be

better distilled to 200-250 pages (eliminating all the 'such parents are idiots' comments would get most of the way there!)

If you can look past all that, there is a solid, common sense approach to parenting underneath. For me this was simply a 'you're on the right track just keep going' book rather than providing any groundbreaking insights.

Toby Goodwin says

Never exactly finished, but I'm keeping it handy to dip into when I need moral support! There is some very useful material in here, although the style grates a bit in places. (Possibly newer editions rectify this.)

Dana Bolink says

An eye-opener that every parent should read. Insightful, down-to-earth, practical information on what makes toddlers tick and how best to deal with it. The alarm-trick was - and still is - a lifesaver for us. The sleeptraining 'program' actually works. Green is occasionally a bit too happy with himself for my taste, but that doesn't diminish the sheer amount of useful information collected in this book. It covers everything from temper tantrums, to sleeping, to eating. If you have a toddler, or will have one soon, go read it, it will make your life easier and your child happier.

Leonie says

I remember this book being revolutionary in toddler rearing approach in the 80s. I downloaded a copy to my Kindle as soon as my first born showed signs of requiring 'taming'. I was shocked at how common sense the advice was and mirrored the approach I was already taking. I think a lot has changed in the 30+ years since this book was written and that the amazing techniques within its pages are now the norm.

Still looking for a solution for my unruly children ?

Pixie Dust says

This is an easy to read book that covers many different topics in toddler rearing. A lot of it is common sense I suppose but it is good to read about it and it is written in a way that is easy to understand and does contain lots of different ideas particularly on discipline.

Michel says

Dr. Green's advice is often to give the child a smack. I don't know why so many pages were written if the answer is always to smack the kid around. There were a few other ridiculous tips in there. Unless this book

has been drastically revised since its first printing, I recommend you throw the book in the paper recycling bin, which is where my second hand copy is going right now.

Jonathan Grant says

The chapter about sleeping is really great. Helps a lot. Will definitely be using it. Great resource so I'm sure I'll be coming back to it.

Sally Edsall says

I read this when I was pregnant, and found it mildly amusing. HOWEVER, I found it of little use when I had the baby. It is glib, and patronising, I thought.

As for the 'controlled crying' technique advocated here, I find it cruel and heartless. I couldn't listen to my baby cry for up to 10 or 15 minutes without offering comfort and presence. As for tying a door shut when a child has been sent to their room, again, I couldn't do it.

I would recommend T Berry Brazelton's 'Touchpoints' as a better book for parents of young children.

Jim says

Wow, I'm now both dreading and keenly anticipating my own toddlers.

This book gave me a very good understanding of the techniques to deal with undesirable behaviour in toddlers. Strangely enough, its the same technique that works best in adults: ignore the bad behaviour and reward the good behaviour.

Obviously, its easier said than done, and Christopher Green is both well versed in the classical thinking, and hardened from decades of experience on the front line of paediatrics. Excellent read for fathers and mothers to be.

Kate says

The first chapter includes a table of what proportion of toddlers engage in antisocial behaviour (not sleeping, tantrums, attacking siblings, hyperactivity etc) at what ages and is great for reassuring you that your child is 100% normal and even in some ways you're very lucky to have them (when you realise they are in the other 30% not engaging in disgusting behaviour).

It also makes you feel that whatever you do as a parent is the best thing while at the same time giving possible solutions to common problems.

It's been invaluable to me and I recommend it to all toddler mothers. Unlike many parenting books, it doesn't matter what type of parent you are, whether you are into strict routines or a do whatever type, the book will

apply to you and your children.

Cat says

A review in bits:

I'm on page 56 out of 283 (1995 edition)

Information is logical so far however as a distinction student in Animal Behaviour I'm mightily unimpressed with the line:

"Pets and Toddlers generally mix well. but there is no place in the same house for a savage dog that bites when teased, however important his role as guard dog may seem. Such animals should be sent back to the jungle where they belong."

Mr Green seems unaware of the oxymoron he created when he wrote that, no animal that is **provoked to breaking point** is deserving of being branded savage and their owner told to rudely "get rid" of it. The advice should have been; **all animal and child interaction should be closely monitored, do not allow children to poke a dogs eyes or pull their tail or ears, ditto cats. Dog's usually try and walk away from what is bothering them so if you see any signs your dog has had enough seperate the dog into a quiet room away from the toddler before the situation escalates. Dogs if known to attack with no prior warning that they are getting fed up should be muzzled around small children at all times or kept separate.**

I think it goes without saying that as a mother our kids are our worlds and if any dog did try and savage our kids unprovoked ofcourse we would put the boot in without so much as a second thought. However if you choose to have both children and pets you are responsible for both. It's not rocket science, just use a bit of common sense and put some simple measures in place to prevent these incidences altogether.

Other than that HUGE mistake the book so far is pretty sensible... but not anything particularly revelatory and I've heard the advice more or less before from my own mum; "*ignore the tantrum and then when they realise they are only wasting their own time and could be doing something better instead they will stop.*" So far I'd rate it as a 2 star.

Now on page 135.

I Suppose the advice is grand if you never heard it before, or are completely clueless. But again personally I've heard similar advice already from my own parents, now the grandparents. Re: controlled crying, I'm surprised at this one, giving in to attention seeking behaviour after only five mins seems very inconsistent with the rest of Mr Green's advice, which all boils down to ignore the bad behaviours, and if that fails smack 'em [wtf].(remember my version is from 1995).

I'd still only rate this a 2.

Finished.... not much else to say about this really, just some or rather most of the stuff I fealt was or rather should be common knowledge anyway, and some small bits were just plain flawed so if you want to read this I suggest doing so with a pinch of salt

Jim Kennedy says

After having a baby over a year ago, my sister gave me this book, and I must admit, it is an excellent read for a new parent. It is mostly common sense (but no less important to see written down - sometimes I need to have things spelled out to me!), contains tons of practical advice, and it is very reassuring - i.e. there **are** solutions to any issues that may pop up with your toddler. He also constantly points out that children are not bad, they are just children being children, you should be enjoying it. And try to remember that whenever they're driving you mad :)

It makes me feel **somewhat** prepared for my wee one becoming a toddler :)

Lee Kofman says

With all the wishy-washy New Age type books on child rearing fashionable these days, I was delighted to discover this 1990s Australian classic. I found Green's attitudes mostly very sensible and refreshing in their lack of complexes. Yes, it's not the end of the world if once in a while you give your child a little smack (not that I want to do this, but I don't want to go to pieces if this happens). You don't need to worry too much about your child's diet and parents deserve a life of their own too. Where he did disappoint me is in his approach to early learning. He thinks that wanting your child to be literate before school, whether it's in reading or music, is stupid. Instead, Green seems to encourage mediocrity – raise a likeable, social child, he seems to advise. As if both literate and socially adept child is a unicorn.
