



Teenage

Parenting

101



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Introduction

Whether your family is like the Walton's, the Simpson's or the Bundy's, or whether you're living in the thirteen hundreds, the eighteen hundreds or the twenty-first century, it's never easy raising a family.

Each and every one of us though will have something in common with the mythical characters and our counterparts of yesteryear. We all have children, and we will all ultimately need to deal with the fact that these children will grow up.

To go from baby to toddler to mature adult though, there's one stage they will definitely need to go through regardless of anything else, and that's adolescence. Or in other words, the teenage years. Dun-da-DAH! This is when you're supposed to hear the music from the movie "Psycho" echoing in your head.

No, I'm just joking, teenagers aren't that bad, and most of it is in truth mainly a lot of media misdirection. The anguished teenager, the rebellious teenager, the bookworm, the go getter, the jock, the cheerleader, the nerd, the mixed up one who's not popular but has the potential...the list goes is practically endless, and if you look hard enough you'll always find a teenager that will suit one of these stereotypes.

If you look harder still though, you'll see that some facet of their personalities will fit each and every one of these stereotypes. So what do you then? Raising a teen is hard enough, if you don't know what mold they fit into how can you proceed any further?

That's easy really. You're their parent and only you can know what they're truly like. What they become and how they perceive the world and find their place in it though is a matter for the two of you to decide, through this journey of parenthood and "teenagehood", together.

And that's what this book is all about, the joys and pitfalls of parenting a teenager. One more thing though before you go on to read this book. One thing that I believe in with all my being, is that you need good communication between you and your teen for your relationship to work.

Without this everything else will just fall by the wayside. And because of this belief that I have, you'll find that most of this book is littered with references for you to just "sit down and talk" with you teen.

I'm only saying this in advance so that you realize that this repetition was intentional on my part and not something I did by accident. Also, another thing is that although I've tried to put everything in its proper place, there are no clear cut boundaries when bringing up teens or other children.

Most subjects will overlap and spill into the other, and you'll sometimes find yourself reading about something that might be slightly left field to what the heading is saying, but be assured that everything I've written in this book is important in the raising of your teens.

So now armed with that bit of information, hopefully you can venture into the realms of this book without any problems.

Forward

I'm the proud mother of three grown children and the proud grandmother of one yet to be walking baby. You might be wondering what you're doing reading this book, and to tell you the truth at first I was wondering what I was doing writing this book. Let me start at the beginning though.

Before I started this book, and before it even became a germ of an idea, my daughter found out that she was pregnant and started to frantically read up on any and every book that she could get her hands on about parenting and babies in particular.

This very naturally gave me pause for thought. Where were all these books when we were having our babies? Who was there to help and guide us through these rough times? The answer came without any thought or volition on my part: our mothers.

His mother, my mother, my mother's mother, the list goes on and on, and I have to say that looking back now this was probably the best support group that we could have had. So what was different now?

For the case of my daughter, I was still on hand to help her, as well her mother-in-law, and she certainly had the undivided attention of both her grandmothers, those two redoubtable ladies who had so helped me. Why then, was she resorting to reading all the books she could before her baby came into this world?

I had no clear answer then, and I still don't now. I have only theories which may or may not be right, but which will undoubtedly be scoffed at by the greats of the how-to parenting world of books.

After all what would I know? I've only raised three children, nothing much really in the long run. I laugh on that, Hah! You try raising two boisterous young boys and a tomboy of a girl and see how far you go without gaining valuable experience.

There's no more qualification needed on parenting than having raised your own children and there's no one more able to help your daughter through her pregnancy and the difficulties of parenting than her mother.

It's not that she didn't come to me for advice, she did, but she seemed to place so much importance on the advice of total strangers that I started to