

I agree with the authors: that adolescent mothers and their infants must not be considered in isolation from one another. This volume charts a comprehensive, longitudinal study of adolescent mothers and their children.

The book describes the findings of the Notre Dame Parenting Project. This intensive study followed adolescent mothers and their children for eight years. In the second chapter, the authors provide a model of adolescent parenting as a framework for their research findings. In a later chapter, a model generated from the gathered data identifies the central role of cognitive readiness in successful parenting.

This book is unique in its ability to balance traditional quantitative data analysis with qualitative understanding of individual differences. The authors take great steps toward banishing simplistic conceptions of adolescent mothers and their children. They examine the sensitive and complex issues inherent in adolescent parenting and they accurately report on risk factors, deficits, and other problems identified by their research. In addition, the authors consider the implications of their research for designing assistance programs to adolescent mothers and their children; for examining resilient versus non-resilient mothers and children; and for identifying high-risk mother-infant dyads.

This book offers important insights and, while written largely for a graduate audience, portions of the text will be readily accessible to undergraduate students and lay readers, as well. Of particular interest to a wide readership are the sections on adolescent mothers' life stories and social policy implications. *Interwoven Lives* lives up to its intriguing title: it describes accurately how the developmental outcomes and trajectories of adolescent mothers and their children are intertwined.

The Girlfriends' Guide to Toddlers

Vicki Iovine
New York: Perigee, 1999

Reviewed by Andrea Riesch Toepell

Vicki Iovine writes a humorous guide with down-to-earth, practical advice for parents of toddlers. An expert on the subject, having had four children in nine years, she does not assume a voice of authority. Rather, she writes from the position of experience – her own and those of her girlfriends. Iovine illustrates her book with examples, many of which belong to her girlfriends. Readers will feel reassured that their feelings about parenthood are not exceptional and will take comfort in the toddler stories of Iovine and her girlfriends.

I especially enjoyed Iovine's use of humour. Sometimes the examples she

gives are so amusing, the reader will forget her reasons for seeking advice. The most memorable chapters are “The Comfort Zone,” about “blankies,” “soothies,” and stuffed pets; “Sleepy Time,” about difficulties that can occur when toddlers do not sleep (and Iovine confesses to giving nighttime bottles of water to cranky children); and “Fashion,” which describes the typical toddler’s understanding of colour, style, and wardrobe. Iovine does not make light of any issue. She does, however, see things in the context of the larger life, a perspective that will be appreciated by struggling parents.

Iovine makes every effort to comfort and reassure parents: that their toddler’s behaviour is not abnormal; that other toddlers may behave worse than their own (always a comfort); that their own feelings of insecurity are normal; and that self-doubt is part of parenting a toddler. Her sage advice and her delivery—straightforward, supportive, and funny—will lift the reader’s spirit.

The book is designed as a guide for caregivers of toddlers. Its 11 chapters address specific topics that concern every parent of a toddler, for example, discipline, eating, and toilet training. The book includes a useful index, designed to encourage browsing. This is a worthwhile book to give to your girlfriend!

Jewish Mothers Tell Their Stories: Acts of Love and Courage

Rachel Josefowitz Siegel, Ellen Cole Ellen Cole, Susan Steinberg-Oren
New York: Haworth Press, 2000

Reviewed by Rivka Greenberg

All mothers are challenged daily to address multiple forces in their lives. These forces include their children, partners, families, society, religion, work, and social issues, as well as their own, individual needs. For many Jewish mothers, defining the place of Judaism as a significant value in their lives, responsively and proactively, is an enigmatic and perplexing struggle. For earlier generations, the primary sources of support for mothers were the women in their extended families: mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and cousins. Increased mobility, economic shifts, and work outside of the home have diminished the influence of the extended family and mothers have had to find new ways to meet their need for support, guidance, and community. This is particularly true within the context of Jewish community, where many Jewish