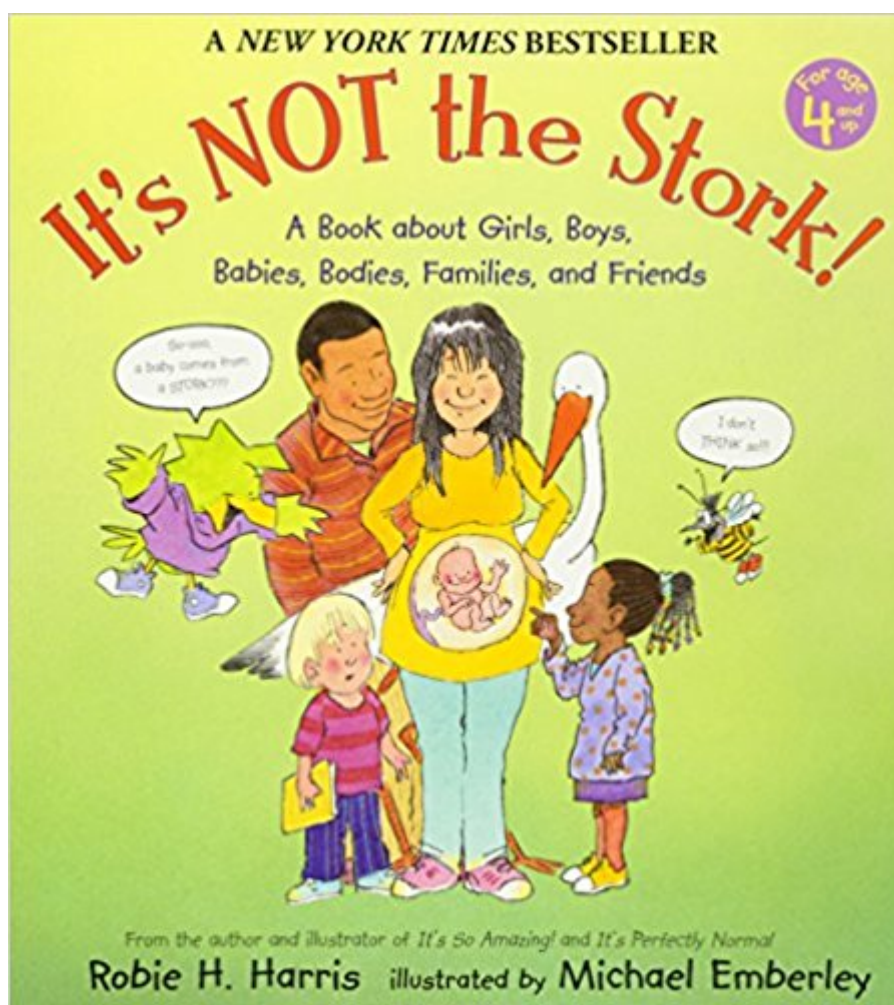


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# It's Not The Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families And Friends (The Family Library)



## 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

Paperback: 64 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.2 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 459 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,101 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Sexuality #5 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #9 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 3 "Harris opens by introducing two cartoon characters—a green-feathered bird clad in a purple shirt and blue high-top sneakers and his spike-haired friend, a bee. They wonder, So where DO babies come from? Their conversational commentary, given in word balloons, is a lighthearted supplement to a more focused narrative. Told in the second person, the text is straightforward, informative, and personable. Facts are presented step-by-step, starting from the similarities and differences between boys and girls bodies, moving to a baby's conception, growth in the womb, and birth, ending with an exploration of different configurations of families as well as a section on okay versus not okay touches. The book is logically organized into 23 double-page sections. Friendly and relaxed cartoons, either interspersed with the text or appearing in comic-strip form, are integral to the title's success in imparting the material. The labeled drawings show both the outside and the inside parts of the body. As the bee and bird say to one another, Knowing the names of ALL the parts of your body is "PERFECTLY NORMAL! Overall, this book will be accessible to its intended audience, comforting in its clarity and directness, and useful to a wide range of readers." —Martha Topol, Traverse Area District Library, Traverse City, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

\*Starred Review\* K-Gr. 3. Harris and Emberley's *It's Perfectly Normal* (1994) and *It's So Amazing* (1999), sex-ed books for pubescent and prepubescent readers, respectively, are among today's most frequently challenged titles. Their newest targets kids closer to potty training than puberty, but like its predecessors, it will undoubtedly raise as many hackles as it attracts words of praise. Some controversial elements in the previous books have been toned down or left out here; there are no images of unclothed adults or references to masturbation, abortion, and birth control. But what remains will still widen many eyes: pictures of nude children with body parts exhaustively labeled; text about the "kind of loving [that] happens when . . . the man's penis goes inside the woman's vagina" that candidly expresses what the accompanying under-the-blankets visual leaves to the imagination. Emberley's affectionate, mood-lightening cartoons keep things approachable, while Harris' respectful writing targets children's natural curiosity without cloaking matters in obfuscating language. Based on its length and detail, the book's advertised intent to reach children as young as

four seems optimistic. All the same, this will smoothly adapt to the needs of individual families, who will want to choose among the three options based less on assigned age ranges than on personal comfort levels with the topics addressed. For another forthright but less-comprehensive book, suggest Dori Hillestad Butler's *My Mom's Having a Baby!* (2005). Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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. It now jumps from a picture of female reproductive organs to the sentence that says "kids are much too young for a special kind of loving called sex. . . during sex the man's penis can release sperm into the woman's vagina." and then the explanation for how babies happens proceeds from there. The pages on good touch/bad touch are also confusing and don't even begin to address equipping kids to protect themselves from being groomed for sexual abuse or preventing them from being sexually abused. The assumption seems to be that a predator will simply grab a kid and start touching their private parts and that's the only form of sexual abuse. It doesn't address when someone asks you to touch their private parts, show you their private parts or want to see yours. It spends a great deal of time talking about how it is "ok" for a "friend" to hold your hand and hug you and how that touch is ok if you are ok with it. It implies that only an adult might touch you in a bad way (when often it can be a child just a few years older that sexually abuses). It's not the

purpose of the book to address this topic exclusively, but maybe they shouldn't have included it at all because it feels like it is a dangerously small amount of information and misleading. I could totally see a kid thinking they know what bad touch is now and a predator convincing them that what they are asking them to do is not bad at all, just something a "friend" does with another "friend".

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 that 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. And then when we finished the book, my son gave me a big kiss and told me how great he thought I was with the implication that he greatly appreciated that I was open and honest and talked about things that he was curious about and that it was okay to do so. Weeks later, perhaps after my daughter read it on her own several more times, she exclaimed in public that "you make babies by putting a penis into a vagina and they come from cells." I said "yup, that's right, but remember that I asked you not to share that in public because we don't know how much other children know and their parents might not be ready to tell them yet." And that was it. No drama and they are more comfortable asking me all kinds of things now because they know I will be open and honest about them.

I really like this book it touches on so many topics using correct scientist terms in an age appropriate way. The only thing I did not like is they refer to the intact penis as uncircumcised... It is not

uncircumcised just as woman with breasts aren't unmastectomed... But nothing a little ink can't fix I do hope they fix that in future editions.

I bought this book for my daughter who already loved "Who Has What?" It's a little heavy on text for a 4-year old really. She is totally in love with all the pregnancy drawings though, so we basically talk about the images with this book instead of reading each word of the text. I'm thinking that in a year or two she might be fine with reading it. Since buying it she has turned 5 and we have purchased "What's In There?" based upon her love for pregnancy in this particular book. That book is more on the simple side when it comes to the text, so she is loving that too. It also features the same kids as in "Who Has What?". We'll get back to this book in a year maybe. It's great... just hard to keep her attention with it.

Amazing book! My 4yo son & 7yo daughter really enjoy it! For me was easier to explain them and show.

Perfect for explaining the simplistic point of the body for young kids, and exactly what I needed to explain the birds and the bees to my son without going into too much detail! I'd recommend this book to any parent that has a child over 4 like the book suggests, but I personally left out a few sections and we will touch base with those a little later on. This book was a lifesaver for that uncomfortable talk when my son started asking those dreaded questions! My wife and I are surely saving it for our younger kids, as well.

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