



It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families (The Family Library)

By Robie H. Harris

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"An outstanding book. . . . Meets the needs of those in-between or curious kids who are not ready, developmentally or emotionally, for *It's Perfectly Normal*." —*Booklist* (starred review)

How does a baby begin? What makes a baby male or female? How is a baby born? Children have plenty of questions about reproduction and babies—and about sex and sexuality, too. *It's So Amazing!* provides the answers—with fun, accurate, comic-book-style artwork and a clear, lively text that reflects the interests of children age seven and up in how things work, while giving them a healthy understanding of their bodies. Created by the author and illustrator of *It's Perfectly Normal*, this forthright and funny book has been newly updated for its fifteenth anniversary.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The creators of *It's Perfectly Normal*, targeted to middle-schoolers, here reach out to a slightly younger audience with candor and humor, neatly distilling various aspects of sex, reproduction and love. An inquisitive, loquacious bird and an embarrassed bee act as comic and straight man and serve as diverting foils to Harris's conversational narrative; kids will both identify with and chuckle at the two characters' reactions and asides. The duo's cheerful banter also clarifies some potentially confusing issues ("So the fetus doesn't grow where the pizza goes!" proclaims the newly enlightened bee). Specific topics covered include changes in boys' and girls' bodies during puberty, intercourse, birth control, chromosomes and genes, adoption and adjusting to a newborn sibling. The roster of experts in the closing acknowledgments speaks to the sensitivity and intelligence with which Harris and Emberley handle their treatment of masturbation, sexual abuse, HIV and AIDS and homosexuality. Emberley's artwork ranges from lighthearted cartoon panels of a talking sperm meeting up with an egg in the fallopian tube to straightforward drawings of reproductive organs and a developing fetus. With its informal yet informed perspective, this volume renders much "amazing" phenomena reassuringly comprehensible. Ages 7-up. (Nov.)

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4-Another barrier-breaking contribution by Harris and Emberley that seamlessly bridges *It's Perfectly Normal* (1994) and *Happy Birth Day!* (1996, both Candlewick). This oversized, attractive guide on reproduction and birth answers common questions such as "Exactly what is sex?" and "Where does the baby actually come out?" The familiar enthusiastic bird and reluctant bee narrate the comic cartoon panels, eventually deciding that the miracles of birth, families, and love are just "so amazing." Readers will appreciate the life-size illustration of a full-term fetus, and adults will be grateful for the many different ways Emberley portrays situations not always easy to explain to children. People are represented with a variety of body shapes and ethnicity, and Harris discusses sexual preferences and alternative family situations. While the illustrations are engaging and often hilarious, factual information is effectively presented in a clear, nonjudgmental tone that will inform and assure readers. Topics covered include basic anatomy, conception, fetal development, birth, genetics, adoption, and love. Sexual abuse and HIV are sensitively mentioned in short, informative chapters. An essential guide that will delight and inform and appeal to young readers as well as adults.

Katie O'Dell, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR

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From Scientific American

Talking to children about where babies come from can be difficult for the parents and on the kids. But *It's So Amazing* might make it a little easier. Give it to your child to read or better yet, sit down and read it together. Interesting discussions are sure to follow. Written in comic-book style, this book addresses many topics, including conception, birth, love, sexuality and family, in a gentle and respectful manner. In the chapter "Becoming a Family," for example, a variety of families are mentioned, including those headed by a single parent, by parents who are gay or straight, and by parents who are married or divorced. Illustrations help validate each combination as a real and loving family. In a direct and nonthreatening manner, Harris discusses cesarean births, premature babies, adoption, sexual abuse, and HIV and AIDS. Colorful drawings depict people of different cultures, races, shapes and sizes. An eager-to-learn bird and a more reticent bee serve as an audience within the book. They ask questions, make comments and learn along with the reader.

Offering comic relief throughout, they also help readers recognize that not everyone shares the same comfort level discussing these issues and that however one feels is okay. This is a book you'll wish someone had given you as a child.

Joan Silberlicht Epstein

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Overbay:

The book *It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families (The Family Library)* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families (The Family Library)* to get your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like wide open and read a guide *It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families (The Family Library)*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Brandon Harmon:

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Celina Ziolkowski:

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