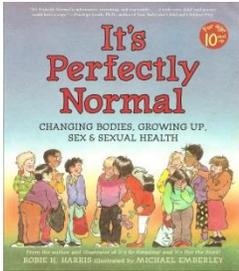


It's Perfectly Normal

by Robie H. Harris, Illustrated by Michael Emberley

Review by Barbara Anderson



It's Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris (1994, 2004, and 2009 editions) is a staple of comprehensive sex education and is deemed developmentally appropriate for ages 10 and up. This stomach-turning sex book for children could easily be classified as a child's gateway book to porn. It is cartoon pornography that includes coarse language with graphic illustrations of people having sex, putting on condoms, masturbating and other activities. This book numbs children's natural inhibitions and arouses their curiosity on sexual matters. It also violates and breaks down their natural modesty.

The book is loaded with controversial statements about contraception, abortion and homosexuality. The sexually stimulating material will encourage kids to experiment with sex—leading to more out-of-wedlock births and sexual diseases. This book is not appropriate for any age and should be pulled from all public schools and libraries.

The graphic cartoon images are the same in all three editions. However, there are some significant changes and additions in the newer texts. The 1994 edition uses the term “sexual intercourse.” The 2004 and 2009 editions added the term “vaginal intercourse” (page 56)—implying that there are other forms of intercourse. On pages 15 and 57 the text suggests that the anus and the mouth are sex organs as the lesson introduces children to “oral intercourse” and “anal intercourse” (not in the 1994 edition).

The 2009 edition “Celebrating 15 Years in Print” includes the same content as the 2004 edition, with the addition of a chapter on page 83 entitled “Helpful—Fun—Creepy—Dangerous: Getting Information and Staying Safe on the Internet.” This chapter tells kids that the Internet can be a good place to find out information about their bodies and sex.

In 2009, to celebrate the 15th anniversary edition of *It's Perfectly Normal*, SIECUS offered a signed copy of this book to all supporters who sent in a \$50 donation. SIECUS, the clearinghouse for comprehensive sex education, has been promoting child sex for decades. This book will encourage more of it.

It's Perfectly Normal violates the minds of children at an age when they are not developmentally prepared to handle the obscene content of this book. It will confuse children, damage their emotional development and rob them of their childhood at a vulnerable age.

The most striking objections to *It's Perfectly Normal* include:

- A two-page spread of colorful drawings of 20 males and females all of different races, ages, weight and physical condition—all naked—with breasts and genitalia clearly visible. (Pages 20-21)
- A naked girl bent over, holding a mirror between her legs, so she (and the reader) can examine her sex organs (Page 23).
- A male and female naked in bed, engaged in sexual intercourse (Pages 14 and 56).

- The travels of the sperm shown in cartoon-like fashion. Sperm are pictured stopping at the “Seminal Snack Bar,” picking up free travel kits at the “Prostate Gift Shop,” all before spurting out the tip of the penis. (Page 38)
- Gay parenting, homosexuality and bisexuality are normalized and affirmed (Pages 16-18, 50)
- States as fact: “The ancient Greeks thought that love between two men was the highest form of love.” (Page 17).
- Oral and anal sex acts presented as normal alternatives “...any kind of sexual intercourse—vaginal, oral, or anal intercourse.” (Pages 15, 56, 57,70, 77, 81)
- Inaccurate information on HIV/AIDS and portrayed as an equal-opportunity disease. “Any person can get HIV infection...” (Page 80)
- Nine reasons why a female may want to have an abortion—described as a “safe procedure if done early.” Abortion is defined as “a medical procedure performed for the purpose of ending a pregnancy.” (Page 73)
- Masturbation depicted as common and normal with cartoon pictures of a boy and of a girl engaged in masturbation. “Masturbating is perfectly normal. People usually rub their sex organs with their hands or with something soft like a pillow.”
- An attack on the religious disapproval of masturbation by saying, “Some religions call masturbation a sin, but masturbating cannot hurt you.” (Pages 48-49)
- Color illustrations of birth control methods and how they function in males and females—all beyond the comprehension of children. Included are: the female condom, male condom, spermicide, sponge, the Pill, Norplant, Depo-Provera, diaphragm, cervical cap, the IUD, the rhythm method, the withdrawal method, emergency contraception pills, and sterilization. No failure rates are mentioned. (Pages 68-72)

The content of *It’s Perfectly Normal* fits the profile of a child molester’s strategy as defined by the FBI.*

Michael Heimbach of the Criminal Investigative Division, Crimes Against Children Unit, FBI testified before a U.S. Senate committee on May 1, 2002 that child molesters:

1. Demonstrate sex acts to children.
2. Lower the sexual inhibition of children by showing pictures of children engaging in sexual activities.
3. Desensitize children to sex.
4. Sexually arouse children.

It’s Perfectly Normal uses all four of these strategies. It normalizes high-risk sex acts such as anal and oral sex, and grooms children for child abuse.

Robie Harris, the author of *It’s Perfectly Normal*, is a champion of Planned Parenthood (PP) and was on Planned Parenthood’s national board of advocates. *It’s Perfectly Normal* is promoted and distributed by Planned Parenthood—the nation’s primary provider of comprehensive sex education and abortions—and stands to gain more customers and increased profits from abortions as more children get addicted to sex.

This book for children is not about health. The title sums up the author’s objective—to sexualize children and teach them that whatever variety of sexual activity they would like to engage in, it’s all “perfectly normal.”

**Groomed for Sodomy: What’s Taught to Young Students Today Used to Be Illegal* by Judith A Reisman, PhD