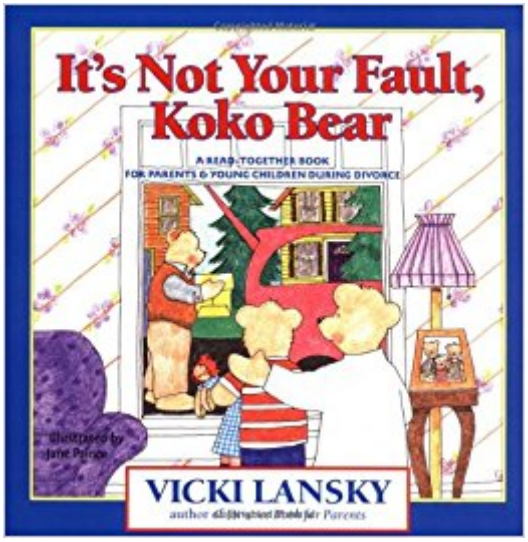
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It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear: A Read-Together Book For Parents And Young Children During Divorce (Lansky, Vicki)



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Synopsis

This easy-to-understand children’s story and parenting guide is intended for families where both parents plan to stay active and involved in their child’s life. "It’s Not Your Fault, KoKo Bear" revolves around a lovable bear who doesn’t want to have two homes. KoKo’s experience will help children learn what divorce means, how family life will change, and understand that the divorce is not their fault.

Book Information

Series: Lansky, Vicki

Paperback: 32 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 7.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 92 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #88,864 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #112 inÃ Â Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Divorce #772 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

How do you talk to your children about your divorce? How can you best handle their responses? Here’s a children’s book and parenting tool rolled into one. It’s Not Your Fault, Koko Bear is a picture book designed to be read by parents to their children. Koko Bear’s parents are getting a divorce, and Koko, a preschool-aged unisex bear, isn’t happy about it. "I don’t like this divorce. I don’t want two homes," Koko says. Koko Bear’s story doesn’t minimize kids’ pain, but it doesn’t wallow in it either. The message is positive: children are reassured that their feelings are natural, that their parents still love and will care for them, and that the divorce is not their fault. At the bottom of each page, there are bullet points for parents that give information and advice about what the kids are going through, and the best way to handle each issue as it arises. (Ages 3 to 7 and parents)

PreSchool-Grade 2AKoKo Bear’s parents are getting divorced, and the cub must go through many adjustments and deal with a wide range of emotions: anger, guilt, confusion, and sadness. At every step, MaMa and PaPa are helpful, understanding, and supportive. In fact, Lansky’s introduction for parents notes that adults might think they "are unrealistically polite and even-tempered." However, this is a book with a purpose, and as such, plot and character take a backseat to message. Below each block of text are comments and suggestions for adults to deal with issues raised by that section of the story. The illustrations are similarly low-key and pleasant, adding to the overall sense of well being. As bibliotherapy, this book serves a purpose. It might be shelved with the author’s Divorce Book for Parents (Book Peddlers, 1991) as well as in the juvenile section.AKathy Piehl, Mankato State University, MNCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This book may be great for older children but not for younger ones. Also, this book really puts emotions out there that the child and parents may not even be experiencing/exhibiting at all and this book may make them think in those ways. I would only read it to a child who is already displaying anger and depression. In my case it wasn’t so, and I never used the book (this coming from someone with experience counseling children). Since this child wasn’t exhibiting much negative emotion and the move was fresh I chose "Two Homes" and Living with mommy, living with Daddy" Which both celebrate having two really fun lifestyles and homes. The child that I used that method with is showing immense resiliency to the transition and speaking excitedly about her two new houses and how much she loves her new room.

Our therapist recommended this book for my young children (5 and 7). They each responded differently, but for both it was a great way to engage them in conversation in an empathetic, understanding, and open way. They so related with Koko Bear and his feelings in the book and were able to identify some of their own feelings through reading it. My 5 year old has asked to read this many times while my 7 prefers not to...not because she doesn’t like the book but because it does bring up feelings that are difficult for anyone--especially a youngster--to process. If you know children affected by divorce, this book is definitely worth reading with them.There are also helpful tips on each page for parents. Ideas to help children process, ways to talk about the new realities we all experience through divorce, and conversation starters to talk to kids in a non-threatening, nonjudgmental, emotionally safe manner.

During my divorce, my kids seemed to be adjusting well, at least in the beginning. As time went on however, they struggled with the idea of divorce so I picked up this book and a few others. This is a great book for the younger ones (mine were 4 and 6 at the time). It really speaks to their guilt over things they think they could have done to stop it, and gives you as the parent a great way to start the conversations that are so important, yet so hard to have. Their Dad and I shared this book from house to house, and in time, the girls didn't need it anymore. I have since given it to a friend to help her situation.

This is a beautiful story about Koko Bear struggling through the challenges of divorce. The story describes Koko dealing with several challenging emotions. The parents support Koko through every step of the way constantly reminding him that it's not his fault but also validating his experience. It's been great for my Psychotherapy practice but would be awesome for a divorced parent to read to their child.

I bought this for my son while my husband and I went through a brief separation. My son is 6 and didn't understand what was going on. We read this and then talked about how our situation was different from Koko bear and how it was the same. My husband and I did not divorce but this book was still very helpful for our son during a difficult time.

Too much discussion of fault. This is a book for adults. Too many words. Not good for little children who aren't already thinking about concepts of guilt/fault.

This is a wonderful book and I am grateful that it was written and published. My kids have had this book read to them by both me and my ex-wife at both of our homes, and it made a difference to them. It teaches them that the divorce is not their fault, which is a surprisingly tenacious thought pattern. I read it to my kids 3-5 times a week for several months, and still remember my daughter's exclamation when she truly processed that the divorce was because of the parents and not the kids, "Ohhhhhhhh!" I am purchasing this book for a second time because after not having read it for many months, I passed it on to a friend with a youngster who is divorcing. We then moved to a new house and my 8 year old is going through many of the divorce emotions again, and she specifically requested this book and said "I love that book". There is one excellent page with nothing but drawings of Koko Bear showing him feeling different emotions. Instead of asking your child how they feel, which they often cannot explain (heck even adults have trouble!), you can have them point to a

picture of Koko Bear and then talk about that emotion. This book will not make the pain of divorce go away, but it provides a good way to learn that what they are feeling is normal and appropriate, that they are not alone in feeling the way they do, and that life will be okay even if it is not what we want.

This is, hands down, the best resource I've purchased to help my daughter handle the divorce we're going through. Her dad left our home a few months ago and I had no idea of how to begin handling the aftermath. Luckily a friend passed along information about a great co-parenting class, and the facilitator took time to highlight this book on the resource list for participants. It really does help, and with all of my own emotional upheaval and the new responsibilities that come with spousal abandonment and divorce, I need all the help I can get! I'm amazed and thrilled to see my 5-yr old daughter's strength flow back a little more each time we read it. The message and approach are right on target for her emotional needs. Sometimes I think the doll is somewhat unnecessary, but the book itself has been a lifesaver.

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