

# The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals

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This comprehensive first of its kind guidebook explores the unique challenges that thousands of families face every day raising their children in every city and state. Through extensive research and interviews, as well as years of experience working in the field, the authors cover gender variance from birth through college. What do you do when your toddler daughter's first sentence is that she's a boy? What will happen when your preschool son insists on wearing a dress to school? Is this ever just a phase? How can you explain this to your neighbors and family? How can parents advocate for their children in elementary schools? What are the current laws on the rights of transgender children? What do doctors specializing in gender variant children recommend? What do the therapists say? What advice do other families who have trans kids have? What about hormone blockers and surgery? What issues should your college-bound trans child be thinking about when selecting a school? How can I best raise my gender variant or transgender child with love and compassion, even when I barely understand the issues ahead of us? And what is gender, anyway? These questions and more are answered in this book offering a deeper understanding of gender variant and transgender children and teens.

Stephanie Brill is a leading expert on a broad range of topics related to gender diversity. She is the author of landmark books including *The Transgender Teen* (with Lisa Kenney) and *The Transgender Child* (with Rachel Pepper). She is the founder and Board Chair of Gender Spectrum, an organization at the forefront of work related to children, youth and gender. Her work has been featured on 20/20, The Huffington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, All Things Considered, and The New York Times. "Libraries may own books dealing with transgender adults, but this is the only guide about raising transgender children. While the general message to parents is that "you have nothing to apologize for and nothing to be embarrassed about," the authors make it clear that parents and families will not have it easy. Realistic and empowering. Background: What do you do when it's Grandma's birthday dinner and your eight-year-old son insists on wearing his dress and Mary Janes? And how do you handle dating when your transgirl daughter still has male sex organs? Brill (founder, Gender Spectrum Education and Training) and Pepper (coordinator, LGBT studies, Yale Univ.) bring solid credentials and years of research to help parents and others deal with issues specific to transgender children. Answers may not be easy, but blaming the child, denying access to transgender friends, and verbal threats are not helpful. When parents recognize their child's gender identity, there can be feelings of confusion, anger, shock, fear, shame, and grief. Most children have gender identities by age two or three; like homosexuality, being transgender is not a choice. Nor is it, as it has often been labeled, "acting out" in anger against parents. There is much detail about medical practices and legal matters, most of which become issues as transgender children become adults."---Linda Beck, Indian Valley P.L., Telford, PA -- Library Journal-- June 24, 2008

#### Other Books

*Social Justice and Putting Theory Into Practice in Schools and Communities*, Educators in the K-12 and adult education milieu, including pre- and in-service educators, are expected to address, in and outside of the classroom, significant political and social issues including increased homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, gender dysphoria, school bullying, and marginalization of the LGBTQ population. Educators seek swift solutions to the situations at hand that will benefit K-12 students. *Social Justice and Putting Theory Into Practice in*

Schools and Communities is an essential research publication that provides detailed research on the creation and implementation of social justice strategies in educational settings. Highlighting a wide range of topics such as gender equality, academic standards, and special education, this book is ideal for educators, sociologists, academicians, researchers, and curriculum designers.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ . into a female, this need for a family meeting would most likely have not existed for any other female in the high school who wrote a similar message in her journal. ... The transgender child: A handbook for families and professionals ."