



What's Going on Down There?: Answers to Questions Boys Find Hard to Ask

Karen Gravelle , Nick Castro , Chava Castro , Robert Leighton (Illustrator)

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Why is my voice making such weird sounds? When will I be able to start shaving? Why do I keep getting pimples? What is a wet dream? Your body has been behaving very strangely lately. You hardly know what to expect from one day to the next. Karen Gravelle, with some help from her two young advisors, Nick and Chava Castro, has written a down-to-earth and practical book that will help guide you through this confusing time in your life. *What's Going On Down There?* answers any questions you might have about puberty, from what it is and what it feels like, to what puberty is like for girls, to how to handle the sexual feelings you may be starting to experience. Robert Leighton's funny and informative cartoons ease the confusion and exasperation you might feel. Part manual, part older brother, *What's Going On Down There?* will give you the facts you need to feel comfortable and confident about this new phase of your life.

What's Going on Down There?: Answers to Questions Boys Find Hard to Ask Details

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From Reader Review What's Going on Down There?: Answers to Questions Boys Find Hard to Ask for online ebook

Simon says

I read this book only to see if there is more information from boys puberty, because also I read other books about puberty. So this book was more information and allot of pictures to understand about growing into man.

Plus this book have who to make babys for real, they have little fact about girls into puberty too if boys are woundering about her. And also there is many questions about boys and they can ansvere on the book. So this book is fun facts but also it ture boy are growing they are leaning so much more.

Radiolab says

Radiolab asked listeners for their sex ed recommendations.

Zach, a Radiolab listener, says, "I started puberty pretty early(around age 9), prior to the start of sex-ed at school. My parents were fairly open about sex, but bought me this book to more thoroughly answer my questions(including the ones I didn't yet have). I enjoyed a lot of it, and did learn a lot about physical changes. While it was useful for understanding what was happening to my body, it was totally useless to my understanding of sex due to its near-complete heteronormativity. While I'm pretty sure it mentioned that gayness was a possibility, it offered nothing on the mechanics of gay sex and assumed that sex with women was the norm..."

Laura says

Quite detailed, informative, and candid book about puberty, sex, and sexuality for tweens and teens, written by a nurse with the assistance of her two sons. It discusses feelings without moralizing. Pretty sound and I'd recommend it. I'd also welcome a new edition that talked about gender and transgender; as one might expect from its original publication date (1998), those are not covered. A bit more surprising is the absence of pornography as a topic. The short section about "meeting people on-line" merits expansion nowadays too. The cartoony illustrations are fun and lighten the mood.

Stephanie says

Didn't get a chance to finish this. Make take it out from the library again.

Stephanie says

Great starting point for opening up discussions with our boys. Simple, concrete explanations, with a bit of a sense of humor---makes this feel easy...fingers crossed! Wish us luck!

Amy says

HAHA. I was **actually** reading this after the ELA test we took today. *I really like the illustrations by the way.* **VERY DETAILED.**

-amyelizabeth.

Rebecca says

This is a great primer. I pre-read it, for obvious reasons, and decided it's a good go-to book for my 11 year old. There is one answer to a 'write in' question that raised my eyebrow, but essentially it comes across as helpful, informative and nonjudgmental.

Chrisy Chance says

I previewed this book to see if it was appropriate for my tween son who has begun asking questions. Overall I feel this book is probably most appropriate for a teenager (13 and above). One passage in this book was odd--it said heterosexual boys masturbating together (or even each other) was not odd...I'm going to have to disagree and my husband violently disagrees. We have zero issue with them discussing the difference between hetero and homo sexual relationships (which they do) but this wasn't something we would encourage any teen to think is ok, no matter what their sexual orientation. Maybe we are prudes

Jen says

Much of the book was ok. I skimmed it so I can't speak to everything. I disagree with some of the authors statements about circumcision. Babies do feel pain and the pain from a circumcision doesn't end as quickly as the authors say it does. I think that with any book like this, it is very helpful to read it with your child so that you can share your own values and beliefs on the topic and use the book as a resource and a place to begin. I checked out several books from the library to help me in educating my kids about puberty and sex. I found other books that resonated with me more than this one.

Lisa Gunner says

I read this one to see if it would be good for my boys that are about to launch into puberty. It was great. It was clear on the science and also clear (for a Mom like me who is socially liberal and not religious, ie Libertarian) on the societal and psychological implications and potential experiences as well. Now if I could

only get them to read it!

Susan says

Overall an excellent book for a tween boy (girls could learn a lot too), and a good opener for parents to start discussions with their sons. It covered topics ranging from body changes/ development, sex, birth control, and what's happening to girls, to open ended "things you might be worried about." It was age appropriate language and style for developing-age boys.

Like some other reviewers, out of 140-ish pages, there were one or two lines that I didn't love. The last chapter asks adult men what they wish they'd known. One says, "If I could live my life over, I'd like to have the ability to really figure females out. I've learned that what they say isn't always what they mean." Another says, "I wish I'd known that the best guide to how a girl might feel about something was to put myself in that situation and see how I'd feel." On the first, that's a human condition, but one that does not belong in this book and attributed only to females. At worst, that attitude is why men don't believe women when they say "No," though I'm sure that's not what the authors mean. But it ties to the second. If you want to know what a girl thinks, ask her. Let's teach men and women to be responsible for what they say and do, and let's start here.

But what this means is that I'll have a conversation with my son about this part (as well as others). The book is excellent. Don't exclude it because of a couple of one-liners. Use it as a chance to engage!

TheBookWorm says

I really liked this book, some parts of it made me laugh and some parts made me cringe. Also, I really learned a lot from this book (considering I already know a lot) it helped me out a lot.

Yanna says

ESTE LIBRO SE TRATA DE COMO PREVENIR INFECCIONES SEXUALES Y TAMBIEN SE TRATA DE TU CUERPO. ESTE LIBRO ME ENCANTA POR QUE TE AYUDA A COMO PREVENIR EL POR EJEMPLO EL HPV.

Katie Pierce says

I reviewed this book to see about potentially including it on a sex ed list for my job. I also reviewed its counterpart for girls "The Period Book." I was not impressed with either. Neither book would feel affirming to a transgender reader, and neither book is written expecting that the child reading might not be cisgender and heterosexual.

This book at least includes short sections on "homosexuality" and "transgender," which is a little weird, cause does the author think that's something only young boys might need to know about? The section on

homosexuality feels very clinical since it continuously refers to gay people as "homosexuals," and it includes the following charming line:

"Given the prejudice and discrimination gay people still face, most would never have chosen to be homosexual if they had felt there was another alternative."

Yikes. Ok, Karen, lemme just lay this out there for you. A lot of us "homosexuals" are pretty damn proud of who we are and would not choose to be straight if given the option. Sorry to burst your bubble, but not everyone wants to be like you.

The transgender section is not the worst thing I've ever read, it's just outdated-feeling, very basic, and talks about transgender people as though the reader is definitely not one of them.

Idk, I know this is an old book, but this new edition was published in 2017. They could have done much better, and there's better stuff out there.

I'd recommend people to go with the 2014 edition of "It's Perfectly Normal" (for kids like 10-14) or "Sex is a Funny Word" (for kids like 8-12) instead.

Charity says

(Purchased for my son.) This book gives the boys such thorough information, that I'm going to have my daughter read it in addition to the one she read designed for girls entering/experiencing puberty.
