

Read Book How To Become A Foster Parent A Complete Guide To The Process Of Becoming A Foster Parent And Raising A Foster Child Pdf For Free

Foster the Family Success as a Foster Parent Foster Parenting Young Children The Little Book of Foster Care Wisdom The Therapeutic Parent Kids Need to Be Safe Another Mother Honestly Adoption Helping Foster Children In School Raising Government Children One Small Boat The Foster Parenting Manual Confessions of an Adoptive Parent Fostering Health A Qualitative Examination [i.e. Examination] of the Perceived Impact of Foster Care on Biological Children of Foster Parents Ready Or Not Foster Care and Best Interests of the Child A Guide to Foster Parenting In Quest of Foster Parents Foster Parenting Fostering Love The Foster Care Survival Guide: Raising Someone Else's Child A Different Home Practical Tools for Foster Parents Foster Care Keep the Doors Open Foster Care Fostering Love The Foster Parenting Toolbox Foster Parenting Essentials Stranger Care Attaching in Adoption Children in Foster Care The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family Reframing Foster Care: Filtering Your Foster Parenting Journey Through the Lens of the Gospel From Child Abuse to Foster Care Groundbreaking Interventions: Working with Traumatized Children, Teens and Families in Foster Care and Adoption Resource Foster Parent's Survival Guide Fostered

Foster Parenting You're About To Discover How To Create A Loving, Comforting And Stable Home For A Foster Child My husband and I have had eight foster children living with us for the lifetime of our marriage. With each successive child who has blessed us with their presence we've learned a lot. Foster parenting and care is very rewarding, but come with its own set of difficulties and challenges. There are many children out there suffering from abuse and neglect, in need of a comforting and stable foster home. Here Is A Preview Of What You'll Learn... How To Prepare Yourself And Your Family For This New Addition How To Make Your Foster Child's Entrance Easy How To Deal With Behavioral Issues How To Deal With Hostile Parents And Relatives How To Take Care Of Yourself And How To Let Go And Much, Much More! Get your copy today! There are great rewards that come along with being a foster parent, yet there are also great challenges that can leave you feeling depleted, alone, and discouraged. The many burdens of a foster parent's day--hurting children, struggling biological parents, and a broken system--are only compounded by the many burdens of a foster parent's heart--confusion, anxiety, heartache, anger, and fear. With the compassion and insight of a fellow foster parent, Jamie C. Finn helps you see your struggles through the lens of the gospel, bringing biblical truths to bear on your unique everyday realities. In these short, easy-to-read chapters, you'll find honest, personal stories and practical lessons that provide encouragement and direction from God's Word as you walk the journey of foster parenting. NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE • "A powerful, heartbreaking, necessary masterpiece."—Cheryl Strayed, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Wild* The moving story of what one woman learned from fostering a newborn—about injustice, about making mistakes, about how to better love and protect people beyond our immediate kin May you always feel at home. After their decision not to have a biological child, Sarah Sentilles and her husband, Eric, decide to adopt via the foster care system. Despite knowing that the system's goal is the child's reunification with the birth family, Sarah opens their home to a flurry of social workers who question them, evaluate them, and ultimately prepare them to welcome a child into their lives—even if it means most likely having to give the child back. After years of starts and stops, and endless navigation of the complexities and injustices of the foster care system, a phone call finally comes: a three-day-old baby girl named Coco, in immediate need of a foster family. Sarah and Eric bring this newborn stranger home. "You were never ours," Sarah tells Coco, "yet we belong to each other." A love letter to Coco and to the countless children like her, *Stranger Care* chronicles Sarah's discovery of what it means to mother—in this case, not just a vulnerable infant but the birth mother who loves her, too. Ultimately, Coco's story reminds us that we depend on family, and that family can take different forms. With prose that Nick Flynn has called "fearless, stirring, rhythmic," Sentilles lays bare an intimate, powerful story with universal concerns: How can we care for and protect one another? How do we ensure a more hopeful future for life on this planet? And if we're all related—tree, bird, star, person—how might we better live? Foster parenting is both a rewarding and a challenging job, a lifestyle of continuous learning and new experiences, and *The Little Book of Foster Care Wisdom* will be there to support you as you, in turn, support your foster children. Filled with 365 days' worth of daily tips, inspirational quotes, and motivational short stories from a foster care expert, this book is a must-read for modern child-welfare advocates, adoptive parents, and foster parents. It provides inspirational content every day, including instructions, tips, anecdotes, and more. Entering the journey of foster care and adoption can be one of the most daunting decisions that you make as a parent. Parenting a child who has experienced trauma and loss is a rewarding experience, but it's not easy. In this biblically-centered and straight-forward book, Pam Parish helps parents to: Consider the impact of foster care and adoption on their lives and families. Evaluate their motives and expectations for the foster care and adoption experience. Explore foster care and adoption through the lens of scripture. *Ready or Not*, 30-day Discovery is sure to challenge, inspire and encourage you in your foster care and adoption journey. Praise for *Ready or Not*: Anyone considering foster care or adoption should first spend 30 days with this book. As foster parents ourselves, we've found *Ready or Not* to be a valuable tool on our journey. So much so, that it's now a part of the core curriculum for families desiring to foster or adopt in our churches. Pam's transparency throughout the book gives a realistic picture of what to expect. Her Biblical insights powerfully draw us to the heart of God and His love for orphaned and at-risk children. Andy and Sandra Stanley, North Point Community Church In this thought provoking biblical study, Pam Parish clearly captures the journey of adoption and foster care. The experience brings parental transformation. Of critical importance for every perspective adoptive parent is to count the cost. *Ready or Not* does just that. This is an excellent resource for faith-based adoption and foster care agencies to use as well as adoption ministries within the local church. I highly recommend it! Jayne Schooler, Co-author of *Wounded Children*, *Healing Homes* and *The Whole Life Adoption Book* Foster care and adoption are beautiful. They are also full of brokenness. Potential parents need to be equipped and aware of the realities of adopting children that come from hard places. Pam Parish shares stories of her own personal journey as well as keen wisdom and biblical insight in *Ready or Not*. I will be recommending this book to every person that is considering foster care and adoption. *Ready or Not* will be an invaluable tool to help them determine if God is calling them to this journey. Johnny Carr, Author of *Orphan Justice* This is one of the best resources I've found to count the costs of adopting and fostering, while at the same time creating a supportive team to hold each other up throughout their journeys. Each week, the probing questions lead to deep discussions and honest reflection, calling each of us to consider what unconditional love truly looks like in action. Thank you so much for providing this valuable resource to families considering fostering and adoption! David Hennessey, Director for Global Movements Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) Every prospective foster and adoptive parent should be given this book in advance of receiving a child into their home. Pam speaks with such truth, passion and understanding of the journey with a child who comes from a hard place. As a foster and adoptive parent, how I wish we could have had such a resource in the beginning of our journey. This is a MUST read for those considering the decision to foster or adopt. Ruby Johnston, Co-Founder, LAMB International In *Ready or Not*, Pam challenges us to consider God's heart for orphans and our specific role in aligning our heart with His. This 30-day journey will inspire you through Pam's honest and heartfelt words and through Scriptures that confirmed her calling. It will recalibrate your expectations and motivation as you enter into your own calling. Mary Frances Bowley Founder, Wellspring Living Author of *A League of Dangerous Women* and *The White Umbrella* A book of 16 interventions designed to teach new and imaginative ways for working with traumatized children in foster care and adoption and their families. *Groundbreaking Interventions* provides a wide variety of play-based methodologies that have been successful in working with children over the age of five in foster care and adoption. Children suffering from abuse. Neglect. Malnutrition. Even drug-related problems passed on from a mother's addiction. Children

rejected by those who were to love them most, their parents. When placed into a foster home, many of these children carry with them the physical and emotional scars that prevent them from accepting the love of another. This journey as a foster parent is the most difficult thing John DeGarmo has done. Through the sleepless nights with drug-addicted babies, the battles with angry teens, and the tears from such tremendous sadness, John DeGarmo learns that to follow God's call in his life means to take up His cross in his own home. *Fostering Love: One Foster Parent's Journey* is the true-life account of his experience as a foster parent, along with his wife and their own three children, as he followed God's call to take foster children into his home. This is a story of heartbreak, sadness, and ultimately love as he came to find God in the tears and smiles of many foster children. Change a child's life! Reap the rewards of becoming a foster parent. Over 600,000 American children are in the foster care system each year, and the number is growing. So is the number of good-hearted people willing to become foster parents. But what does it take to become a foster parent? How does one begin? What about your own family? What does it cost? Success as a Foster Parent has the answers to these basic questions and much more. Written by Rachel Greene Baldino, MSW, in association with the National Foster Parent Association, it is the first and only commercially available book to clearly explain the process of becoming a foster parent. Readers will learn: - The questions to ask before making the decision to be a foster caregiver - How to research local state and private agencies - The financial cost and the compensation - The challenges involved in caring for children from infants to teens, including physically and psychologically challenged kids - Issues relating to schools, birth parents, supervisory visits, vacations, and dozens of other factors - All about adoption In addition to concrete information, there are dozens of moving stories drawn from interviews with veteran foster parents and tips about caregiving. Discover What Adoption and Foster Care Really Look Like If you are considering adoption or foster care or are already somewhere in this difficult and complicated process, you need trusted information from people who have been where you are. Mike and Kristin Berry have adopted eight children and cared for another 23 kids in their nine-year stint as foster parents. They aren't just experts. They have experienced every emotional high and low and encountered virtually every situation imaginable as parents. Now, they want to share what they've learned with you. Get the answers you need to the following questions, and many more: Should I foster parent or adopt? How do I know? What is the first step in becoming an adoptive or foster parent? What are the benefits of an open versus closed adoption? How and when do I tell my child that he or she is adopted? How do I help my child embrace his or her cultural and racial identity? *Honestly Adoption* will provide you with practical, down-to-earth advice to make good decisions in your own adoption and foster parenting journey and give you the help and hope you need. Surviving in the foster care system is as equally challenging as parenting difficult children. This is vital information all foster parents need to remain available for children who need them. Will You Open Your Heart and Home to Children in Need? As a teenager, Kristin Berry had heard all the horror stories surrounding foster care and adoption—abuse, neglect, rejection, anger, and misunderstandings. But instead of closing her heart, God opened it wide. This is Kristin's honest, unvarnished story of some of her experiences as a foster parent of twenty-three children over the course of nine years. What she learned is that living in a foster home is like living with a revolving door. You never know who will arrive or who you will have to say goodbye to. Leaving the door open means there will be heartache and pain, but also adventure and unexpected joy. Kristin and her husband, Mike, have been through it all in their unique parenting journey. If you have ever wondered what it's really like to be a foster parent, this book will help you gain a true understanding of the everyday trials and triumphs these moms and dads face. It will also inspire you to consider opening your door...and to leave it wide open. "Kids are important... They need safe places to live, and safe places to play." For some kids, this means living with foster parents. In simple words and full-color illustrations, this book explains why some kids move to foster homes, what foster parents do, and ways kids might feel during foster care. Children often believe that they are in foster care because they are "bad." This book makes it clear that the troubles in their lives are not their fault; the message throughout is one of hope and support. Includes resources and information for parents, foster parents, social workers, counselors, and teachers. In the 1930s, buoyed by the potential of the New Deal, child welfare reformers hoped to formalize and modernize their methods, partly through professional casework but more importantly through the loving care of temporary, substitute families. Today, however, the foster care system is widely criticized for failing the children and families it is intended to help. How did a vision of dignified services become virtually synonymous with the breakup of poor families and a disparaged form of "welfare" that stigmatizes the women who provide it, the children who receive it, and their families? Tracing the evolution of the modern American foster care system from its inception in the 1930s through the 1970s, Catherine Rymph argues that deeply gendered, domestic ideals, implicit assumptions about the relative value of poor children, and the complex public/private nature of American welfare provision fueled the cultural resistance to funding maternal and parental care. What emerged was a system of public social provision that was actually subsidized by foster families themselves, most of whom were concentrated toward the socioeconomic lower half, much like the children they served. Analyzing the ideas, debates, and policies surrounding foster care and foster parents' relationship to public welfare, Rymph reveals the framework for the building of the foster care system and draws out its implications for today's child support networks. This story of one little girl's journey through our foster-care system forms an intimate portrait of foster care in America and the children whose lives are forever shaped by it. Augusten Burroughs called Kathy Harrison's memoir *Another Place at the Table* a "riveting and profoundly moving story of a hero, disguised as an everyday woman." In *One Small Boat*, Harrison tells the story of one little girl who arrived on her doorstep, and describes how caring for this child was an experience that challenged everything she thought she knew about foster-care parenting and the needs of the children she shelters. Daisy was five when she arrived in Harrison's bustling home. Mother of three children by birth and three by adoption, and with a handful of foster kids always coming and going, Harrison had ten children under her roof at any given time. But Daisy was in many ways unique. Daisy's birth mother wasn't poor, uneducated, or drug addicted. She simply couldn't bring herself to take care of her little girl, and the effects on the child were heartrending. Daisy was unwilling to eat—even frightened of it—and seemed to have a severe speech impediment. After two weeks in Kathy's loving home, however, Daisy began to thrive. What had happened to her? And how can a foster-care parent give back all that has been taken from a child like Daisy—knowing that she might leave one day very soon? Harrison had seen many children pass through her doors, but this one touched her in a way she didn't immediately understand. *One Small Boat* will be of deep interest to anyone who has nurtured and cared for a child or anyone interested in the intricate web that is our social welfare system. This book is about my life of being a mom and adoptive and foster parent to my sixteen children. I go through all the different emotions that a foster or adoptive parent may experience. I hope to better prepare them and, maybe, inform them enough that they can make wise decisions for their family. I also share some of my stories over the twenty-two years. My sharing may save a child in having a better-prepared foster parent or save a parent from becoming a foster parent. There is a lot of joy in foster parenting, but you are taking on a large responsibility. The more prepared you can be, the better. Foster parenting is often seen as a calling and a mission of love. At the same time, foster parenting can be both very difficult and exhausting. When caring for children who have suffered abuse, neglect, and traumas, foster parents face their own set of unique challenges each day. *The Foster Care Survival Guide* is a must have for today's foster parents. It is a guide to surviving the lifestyle of a foster parent filled with personal stories, practical tips and advice, and even humor and emotions, *The Foster Care Survival Guide* is an essential guide for both novice and experienced foster parents. Leading foster care expert Dr. John DeGarmo combines his own wisdom with that of fellow foster parents. Tackling issues such as helping children with disorders and anxieties, how to best manage the lifestyle of a foster parent, working with birth parents, getting the help you need, addressing your own marriage while caring for children in need, and balancing the needs of your biological children with your foster children, *The Foster Care Survival Guide* delivers experienced and sympathetic wisdom and advice that every foster parent, advocate, and professional needs today as they care for children in care. This second edition features new and updated material, including practice parameters for primary care. Foster parents face a unique set of circumstances and experience a wide array of emotions that few can relate to. Their journey is one of equal parts beauty and brokenness, joy and heartache, excitement and exhaustion. There is no textbook on how to be a foster parent, no formula, no simple three-step guide. But there is hope—in God's capacity to bring great beauty out of tragic brokenness. This is the gospel—the lens through which you can filter your foster parenting journey and ultimately find the strength, motivation, and courage you need to be sustained along the way. *ReFraming Foster Care* is a collection of reflections on the foster parenting journey designed to help you do just that—find hope—and to remind you that your work is worth it and you are not alone. This multi-faceted book can be read alone or used as a group support resource. Every chapter includes: Personal reflection questions Group

discussion guides Plan of action exercises Real-life stories Inspirational quotes Whether your foster parenting journey has just begun or you've been on the road for quite some time, we pray this book can encourage, challenge, and inspire you along the way. For bulk orders of 10 or more books, visit www.reframingfostercare.com. Discounts apply. In *Foster Care: How to Fix This Corrupted System*, author Janet Solander presents stories of how Child Protective Services (CPS), Department of Family Services (DFS), and the foster system have failed the very children they are mandated to protect and hold safe. Solander shares heartbreaking incidents taken from the daily news as well as her own firsthand experiences as a foster parent. Only through public awareness is there any chance that the children in the system have any hope of being protected the way they should be. Every child has the right to a safe and secure home, but foster children sometimes find that being in the system brings them to a worse place than the home from which they were taken. Only through public involvement pressuring lawmakers to correct the shortcomings in the system will the innocent victims, the children, have the chance the system promises them. *Foster Care* explains what is happening with these children and what we can do to help correct this dire situation. When foster parents and children gain a stronger voice to advocate for them, only then will the system be able to take care of those who are most vulnerable. According to A.B.C. News, approximately 800,000 children every year come in contact with the foster care system. While the system is set up to take in children whose homelife is awful, in some cases Foster care offers no better conditions. Despite more than a decade of intended reform, the foster care system is overcrowded and rife with issues. This collection of essays teaches readers about the issues surrounding foster care. The essays represent a diversity of opinion on the topic, including both conservative and liberal points of view in an even balance. Readers will learn about the history of foster care, and what it's like to be a child in the system. Essay sources like *The Economist* tackle issues of foster care funding, stating it needs to be changed. This collection will truly provide your readers with an intelligent, balanced understanding. *Know That You Are Not Alone on This Journey* Adopting or fostering a child brings its own unique set of challenges only another parent facing the same uphill climb could possibly understand. From parenting children with traumatic pasts, to dealing with attachment issues, to raising a child with special needs, it can sometimes be a struggle just getting through the day. Mike Berry knows the loneliness and isolation you can easily feel in your particular parenting role—because he's been there. He's still there, and he wants to give you the hope and encouragement you so desperately need. There are plenty of how-to guides out there on parenting, but this one-of-a-kind book is specifically designed to address your needs as a parent of an adopted or foster child. With a refreshing dose of honesty, empathy, and care, you'll discover you are definitely not alone on your journey and God has a very special plan for you and your family. *The THERAPEUTIC PARENT* will not only help the beginner foster parent navigate the complex system of foster care, but it will also further develop the skills of more seasoned foster parents. In addition to providing useful information on foster care regulations and the do's and don'ts of foster care parenting, it will also give parents practical approaches to common parenting issues as well as how to best meet the unique needs of a traumatized foster child. *The THERAPEUTIC PARENT* is a great resource for not only Professional Foster Parents, but also for parents, social workers, educators, case managers, probation officers, therapists and other individuals invested in caring for foster children. This Handbook covers topic areas ranging from becoming a foster parent, understanding regulations and risk management strategies, to how to manage very challenging behaviors, work with treatment teams, transition youth to independence while maintaining a healthy, nurturing home and good self-care. If you're wondering if God can truly move in the life of someone with all the odds stacked against her, look no further than *Tori Hope Petersen*. Tori grew up in the foster care system, a bi-racial child in a confusing and volatile world. Growing up with a mentally ill mother and living in twelve different foster homes, nothing was in her favor. And yet, even with a minuscule chance of graduating college and a great risk of being homeless, jobless, and on drugs, Tori overcame every negative stereotype and assumption that attacked her identity. However, Tori will tell you she did not overcome. Christ did. In the face of the storm, Jesus made a way for Tori to find profound hope, deep faith, renewed purpose, and a loving family, too. After so many years of being on one side of foster care as a child, Tori is now on the other side as a foster mom, adoptive mom, and biological mom. On top of that, she became a Track and Field All-American in college and now works with nonprofits, ministries, and beyond advocating for foster care reform, adoption advocacy, and help for vulnerable populations. If you want to hear the true tale of an unlikely overcomer, this book is for you. If you want to learn more about the foster care system from a former foster youth's perspective, this book is for you. If you want to better dwell in the reality of your own spiritual adoption by our Heavenly Father and better understand the orphan and the widow that He loves dearly, this book is for you. Ultimately, if you want to remember who God is, and what He can do through the most unlikely of people, *Fostered* is for you. *Helping Foster Children In School* explores the challenges that foster children face in schools and offers positive and practical guidance tailored to help the parents, teachers and social workers supporting them. Children in care often perform poorly at school both in terms of their behavior and their academic performance, with many failing to complete their education. They will have often experienced trauma or neglect which can result in a number of developmental delays. By looking at why children in foster care do not perform as well as their counterparts, *John DeGarmo*, who has fostered more than 40 children, provides easy-to-use strategies to target the problems commonly faced. He emphasizes the importance of an open dialogue between teacher, parent and social worker, to ensure that everyone is working jointly to achieve the best outcome for the child. An invaluable resource for foster parents, social workers and educators alike, this book encourages a unified response to ensure foster children are given the best chance to succeed at school. A resource for foster parents offers advice on such topics as working with caseworkers, the impact on the family, discipline, parenting teens, education, and dealing with allegations. *Foster Parenting Essentials* was written for new childcare providers. After many years as a foster parent, the author realized that most new childcare providers were not prepared. New foster parents are schooled in rules and regulations, but little is taught about the challenges ahead. This book was written from experience to prepare for common, unanticipated situations while providing explanations and solutions to normal events that occur in foster care. Humor and personal examples are mixed in for reinforcement. This is an easy read that should benefit anyone entering the childcare profession. "An extremely useful parenting handbook... truly outstanding ... strongly recommended." --Library Journal (starred review) "A tremendous resource for parents and professionals alike." --Thomas Atwood, president and CEO, National Council for Adoption The adoption of a child is always a joyous moment in the life of a family. Some adoptions, though, present unique challenges. Welcoming these children into your family--and addressing their special needs--requires care, consideration, and compassion. Written by two research psychologists specializing in adoption and attachment, *The Connected Child* will help you: Build bonds of affection and trust with your adopted child Effectively deal with any learning or behavioral disorders Discipline your child with love without making him or her feel threatened "A must-read not only for adoptive parents, but for all families striving to correct and connect with their children." --Carol S. Kranowitz, author of *The Out-of-Sync Child* "Drs. Purvis and Cross have thrown a life preserver not only to those just entering uncharted waters, but also to those struggling to stay afloat." --Kathleen E. Morris, editor of *S. I. Focus* magazine "Truly an exceptional, innovative work . . . compassionate, accessible, and founded on a breadth of scientific knowledge and clinical expertise." --Susan Livingston Smith, program director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute "The Connected Child is the literary equivalent of an airline oxygen mask and instructions: place the mask over your own face first, then over the nose of your child. This book first assists the parent, saying, in effect, 'Calm down, you're not the first mom or dad in the world to face this hurdle, breathe deeply, then follow these simple steps.' The sense of not facing these issues alone--the relief that your child's behavior is not off the charts--is hugely comforting. Other children have behaved this way; other parents have responded thusly; welcome to the community of therapeutic and joyful adoptive families." --Melissa Fay Greene, author of *There is No Me Without You: One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Africa's Children* This classic text is a comprehensive guide for prospective and actual adoptive parents on how to understand and care for their adopted child and promote healthy attachment. It explains what attachment is and provides parenting techniques matched to children's emotional needs and stages to enhance children's happiness and emotional health. Features information about foster care, compiled as part of the Connect for Kids resource of the Benton Foundation in Washington, D.C. Discusses why children are in foster care, what their needs are, and how they can be helped. A sensitive picture book to help ease the anxieties of foster children aged 4 to 10 entering placement. In *A Different Home*, *Jessie* tells us her story of being placed in foster care. At first she is worried and has lots of questions. The new home is not like her old home -- she has a different bedroom, different clothes, and there's different food for breakfast. She also misses her family. When Jim and Debbie, her foster parents, answer her questions she begins to feel better and see that this different home is kind of nice.

Written in simple language and fully illustrated in color, this storybook is designed to help children in care, or moving into care, to settle in and answer some of the questions they may have. Accompanied by notes for adults on how to use the story with children, it will be a useful book for foster parents and caseworkers, as well as social workers, teachers and anyone else working with children in foster care. This brief examines the U.S. foster care system and seeks to explain why the foster care system functions as it does and how it can be improved to serve the best interest of children. It defines and evaluates key challenges that undermine child safety and well-being in the current foster care system. Chapters highlight the competing values and priorities of the system as well as the pros and cons for the use of foster care. In addition, chapters assess whether the performance objectives in which states are evaluated by the federal government are sufficient to achieve positive health and well-being outcomes for children who experience foster care. Finally, it offers recommendations for improving the system and maximizing positive outcomes. Topics featured in this brief include: Legal aspects of removal and placement of children in foster care. The effectiveness of prior efforts to reform foster care. The regulation and quality of foster homes. Support for youth aging out of the foster care system. Racial and ethnic disparities in the foster care system. Foster Care and the Best Interests of the Child is a must-have resource for policy makers and related professionals, graduate students, and researchers in child and school psychology, family studies, public health, social work, law/criminal justice, and sociology. The Foster Parenting Manual is a comprehensive guide offering proven, friendly advice for novice and experienced parents alike. Distilling many years' experience into one book, John DeGarmo combines his own wisdom with that of fellow foster parents. He describes what to expect from the process, how to access help and how to ensure the best care for your child. He tackles thorny issues such as children's use of the Internet and social media, managing contact with birth parents and how to support your child at school. Most importantly, he provides advice designed to help your child feel safe, secure and loved. The Foster Parenting Manual offers seasoned, sympathetic advice that will be valued by foster parents and the professionals who support them. More than two million child abuse reports are filed annually on behalf of children in the United States. Each of the reported children becomes a concern, at least temporarily, of the professional who files the report, and each family is assessed by additional professionals. A substantial number of children in these families will subsequently enter foster care. Until now, the relationships between the performance of our child welfare system and the growth and outcomes of foster care have not been understood. In an effort to clarify them, Barth and his colleagues have synthesized the results of their longitudinal study in California of the paths taken by children after the initial abuse report: foster care, a return to their homes, or placement for adoption. Because of the outcomes of child welfare services in California have national significance, this is far more than a regional study. It provides a comprehensive picture of children's experiences in the child welfare system and a gauge of the effectiveness of that system. The policy implications of the California study have bearing on major federal and state initiatives to prevent child abuse and reduce unnecessary foster and group home care. The author describes her experiences being a foster parent, discussing home visits, intervention evaluation, parenting training sessions, transracial placement, and other related topics.