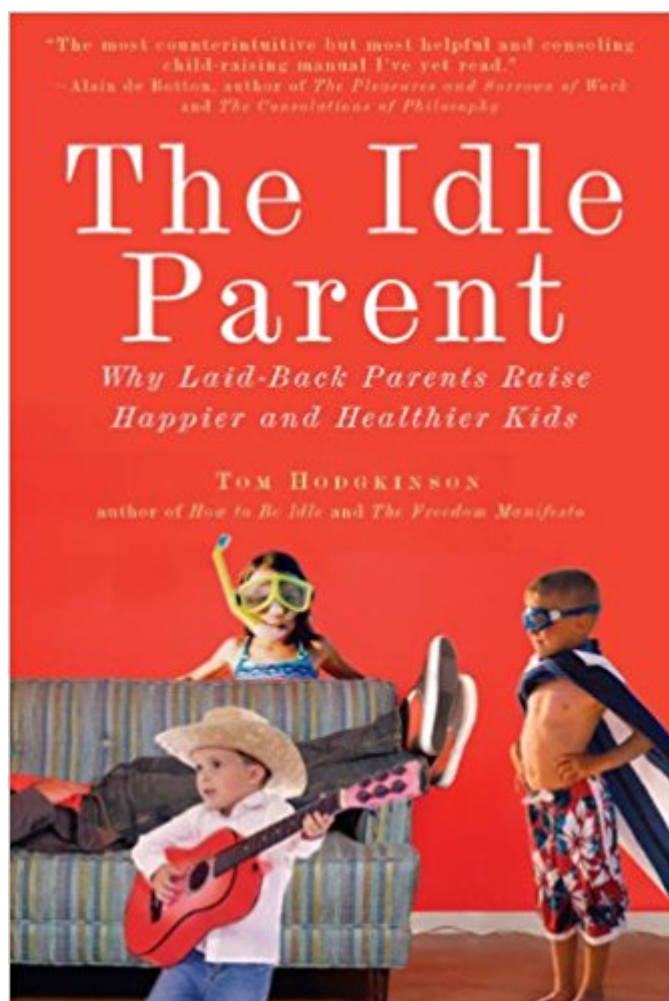


The book was found

The Idle Parent: Why Laid-Back Parents Raise Happier And Healthier Kids



Synopsis

This wise and funny book presents a revolutionary yet highly practical approach to childcare: leave them alone. "The Idle Parent came as a huge relief to the whole family. Suddenly, it was okay to leave the kids to sort it out among themselves. Suddenly, it was okay to be responsibly lazy. This is the most counterintuitive but most helpful and consoling child-raising manual I've yet read."--Alain de Botton, author of *The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work* and *The Consolations of Philosophy* "The most easy-to-follow-without-being-made-to-feel-inadequate parenting manifesto ever written . . . A godsend to parents."--The Sunday Times "Add liberal doses of music, jovial company and deep woods to play in--all central to the idle, not to say Taoist, life--and you have a recipe for bright, happy people with need of neither television nor shrink. Who could ask for more?"--The Evening Standard In *The Idle Parent*, the author of *The Freedom Manifesto* and *How to Be Idle* applies his trademark left-of-center theories of idleness to what can be one of the thorniest aspects of adult life: parenting. Many parents today spend a whole lot of time worrying and wondering--frantically "helicoptering" over their children with the hope that they might somehow keep (or make?) them flawless. But where is this approach to childcare getting us? According to Hodgkinson, in our quest to give our kids everything, we fail to give them the two things they need most: the space and time to grow up self-reliant, confident, happy, and free. In this smart and hilarious book, Hodgkinson urges parents to stop worrying and instead start nurturing the natural instincts toward creativity and independence that are found in every child. And the great irony: in doing so, we will find ourselves becoming happier and better parents.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Daily Telegraph parenting columnist Hodgkinson, author of *How to Be Idle* and editor of *The Idler* magazine, argues for the primary parenting principle of "leave them alone" in this witty, welcome guide to raising happy, self-sufficient children. Beginning with a 21-point manifesto ("We try not to interfere"; "An idle parent is a thrifty parent"; "We reject the inner Puritan"; "We embrace responsibility"), and quoting extensively from such unlikely parenting authorities as Rousseau and D.H. Lawrence (the source of "leave the children alone"), the married father of three explores a range of child-rearing issues, from sleeping and mealtimes to whining, and repeatedly makes a convincing case for the power of letting children be. Citing damage done by overzealous parents, he's critical of television, the Wii, scheduled activities, all toys but the most basic ("simply pluck a branch from a tree"), and anything else--including school--that gets in the way of a child's imagination, sense of freedom, and independence. While his suggestions may seem disquieting, or put well-meaning parents on the defensive, they're grounded in a solid sense of reality, a sincere interest in fulfilling children and parents, and experience: "We wasted hundreds on absurd devices, like the thing that they sit in and use to walk around the room. No: they learn how to walk on their own." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"The most counterintuitive but most helpful and consoling child-raising manual I've yet read."--Alain de Botton, *The Pleasures and Sorrow of Work*

"The most easy-to-follow-without-being-made-to-feel-inadequate parenting manifesto ever written. Hodgkinson is right on almost everything"--The Sunday Times

"Add liberal doses of music, jovial company and deep woods to play in--all central to idle, not to say Taoist, life--and you have a recipes for bright, happy people who with need of neither television nor shrink. Who could ask for more?"--The Evening Standard

"If you wait long enough, you will find a parenting book that endorses your style of mothering. Mine was just published â | the book that argues why laid-back parents raise healthier and happier kids. Appropriately titled, *The Idle Parent* is a refreshing change to most of the parenting books on the market.â --Beliefnet

"Wise, funny, practical and personal, *The Idle Parent* puts the fun back into parenting."--Oliver James

I didn't love the writing, but the concepts are laudable - the author is basically saying "let's all back off our kids and have some more fun with this parenting thing" and if you agree with that but have

family that struggles with that concept, this book might be an effective way to lend credibility to your approach. If you're already 100% on board and supported with that approach, this book doesn't offer much in the way of new ideas. That said, I'm such a fan of the entire concept of giving our kids space, and I'm happy that this book exists for people who DO need a persuasive, somewhat redundant text - so I'm happy to give it 5 stars. I don't know if I'd recommend it to other parents who are already fully embracing this* lifestyle.*letting kids be bored, giving plenty of unstructured playtime, ensuring that parents needs are met, considering the whole family when committing to activities, lots of other pretty basic stuff.

After reading theÂ The Freedom Manifesto: How to Free Yourself from Anxiety, Fear, Mortgages, Money, Guilt, Debt, Government, Boredom, Supermarkets, Bills, Melancholy, Pain, Depression, Work, and WasteÂ I visited Tom's website to find out he wrote a book on parenting. For years I've been very much against the reading of parenting books which seem to cause more harm than good... but, being a fan of Tom, I decided to give this book a try. I'm glad I did! Yes the book needs to be read with a grain of salt but the advice is brilliant and it's so well written. In fact, the only problem I have with the book is that my wife has been doing most of these things (unplugging the tv, avoiding supermarkets, etc) for years while I have been fighting her the entire way. I must say I've never been so glad to have been proven wrong (by my wife and Tom)! This book works!-John Konrad author ofÂ Fire on the Horizon: The Untold Story of the Gulf Oil Disaster

I loved this book, it reminded me to take a breath and let my child enjoy his childhood. It reminded me to let him live his life and have fun with him and not worry so much about everything !! I want him to grow up self sufficient and brave --this is a good reminder of how you treat them in their youth will reflect in their adulthood.

This book is a comfort to parents who are just doing what they can -- and for parents who might sometimes feel guilty for not playing with their children every moment of every day. This book asserts that children NEED to develop self-sufficiency, and being a little more hands-off might just be a good thing for your child. HE may be a little too Rousseauian for my taste, but makes great -- and FUNNY -- points!

Any helicopter parent out there must read this book, a serious topic with a light hearted feel to it well worth the read!

Who wants to read a light book about raising kids. This is the one you need! No stress and still great kids!

Great book for the parent who has read all the parenting books! Honestly... while this is a funny and lighthearted read..... much of what the author says is very true and practical! We should all relax a little more and take his advice.

This book was humorous on a subject that seems to have become very humour-less in the past few years. While definitely not advocating neglect, the author writes how doing less is actually providing a service to your children.

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