

“An intriguing book about parenting . . . of great relevance to contemporary societies around the globe.”

Alma Gottlieb, author of *The World of Babies*

“Synthesizes an impressive array of scientific data in an easy-to-read, even delightful, manner . . . Particularly rewarding is its broad scope, weaving stories from scores of cultures across time and space, coupled with its intriguing focus. Readers who explore the universe of child-rearing techniques will gain insights not only into the human animal, but their own children as well.”

Dr. Michael S. Sweeney, author of *Brain: The Complete Mind*

“A compelling compendium of cultural differences in childcare philosophy and child-rearing practices. He clearly demonstrates that the Western (middle-class) views and practices, which are offered in textbooks as the normal and healthy way, are at best an outlier in the worldwide spectrum. David Lancy says it is a book about parents, but it is also a book for parents, especially for Western middle-class parents, which would help them relax and rely more on their intuitions.”

Heidi Keller, author of *Cultures of Infancy*

“David Lancy’s tremendous first book, *The Anthropology of Childhood*, opened my eyes to child-rearing and parenting as products of culture, not nature. To me, a first-time parent, this gift of perspective helped me focus on what truly matters. Each essay in *Raising Children* packs the same punch. I’m giving this book to all the first-time parents I know.”

Michael Erard, author of *Babel No More: The Search for the World’s Most Extraordinary Language Learners*

“David Lancy’s fascinating and comprehensive work on the anthropology of childhood puts modern Western parenting into much-needed historical and cultural context, calling into question all that we assume to be best practice or most ‘natural.’ In an age of unprecedentedly high parental anxiety, Lancy’s work offers compelling, welcome evidence that there truly are many ways to raise a thriving child.”

Christine Gross-Loh, author of *Parenting without Borders* and co-author of *The Path*

“If you’ve ever wondered why you are sitting on the toy-strewn floor, playing a third game of Candyland, so bored you are ready to

hang yourself with a Slinky, Dr Lancy has the answer. It's the culture, not you."

Lenore Skenazy, founder of the book, blog and movement
Free-Range Kids

"Lancy is the rare academic who combines meticulous research and sharp storytelling skills with a big-hearted delight in the diversity of humankind. His work is erudite, wonderfully playful, and truly eye-opening for anyone who wants to know about the many valid approaches to parenting."

Mark Leviton, *The Sun* magazine (USA)

Raising Children Surprising Insights from Other Cultures

Why, in some parts of the world, do parents rarely play with their babies and never with toddlers? Why, in some cultures, are children not fully recognized as individuals until they are older? How are routine habits of etiquette and hygiene taught—or not—to children in other societies? Drawing on a lifetime's experience as an anthropologist, David Lancy takes us on a journey across the globe to show how children are raised differently in different cultures. Intriguing, sometimes shocking, his discoveries demonstrate that our ideas about children are recent, untested, and often in stark contrast with those in other parts of the world. Lancy argues that we are, by historical standards, guilty of over-parenting, of micromanaging our children's lives. Challenging many of our accepted truths, his book will encourage parents to think differently about children, and, by doing so, to feel more relaxed about their own parenting skills.

David F. Lancy is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Utah State University. He is author/editor of several books on childhood and culture, including *Cross-cultural Studies in Cognition and Mathematics* (1983), *Studying Children and Schools* (2001), *Playing on the Mother-Ground: Cultural Routines for Children's Learning* (1996), *Anthropological Perspectives on Learning in Childhood* (2010), and *The Anthropology of Childhood: Cherubs, Chattel, Changelings* (2015).

Raising Children

Surprising Insights from Other Cultures

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Dedicated to my parents ... because they left me alone.

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