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# Keys To Successful Stepfathering (Barron's Parenting Keys)



## Synopsis

An experienced psychologist who specializes in family relationships discusses remarriage and the relationship created between children and their newly acquired stepfather. This book describes the contributions a stepfather can make to his new family, with advice on how he can assume a reliable and reassuring presence in family life. Also discussed are some of the pitfalls a stepfather might encounter and how he can overcome them. The author stresses the importance of compromise and respect for others in resolving family conflicts. The titles in Barron's Parenting Keys series offer advice and information to parents and discuss the many challenges they face as they raise their children from infancy to maturity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pickhardt shares his years of experience as a psychologist and offers a very useful resource for step fathers and bio-fathers for understanding the multiple changes that affect step families. Issues of multiple alliances, boundaries, even gender differences about step fathers relating to step sons and step daughters, and more are all included in this book which helps normalize the process of step family development. He is very accurate in his description of the developmental process of step-family development, estimating a minimum of 2 years for step families to come together as a working unit. Highly recommended.

Superb psychological and situational reconnaissance for what you're going through or will go through. Let's face it: we're the half of the species that invented the remote control. We want to know

what to do, and we want to know how to do it now. My fiancée tried to get me to read a parenting book written by two women that had great points, but it was a drag due to the anecdotes. I spent an hour staring at one page of that book, but this one I'm flying through. If a man were to edit "Fifty Shades of Grey," it would go from 3 books totaling 900 pages down to 10 pages. Women, particularly women readers, respond to setup. That said, I've read a few reviews expressing the opinion that the book didn't get to its points fast enough. I COMPLETELY disagree. First, each chapter has its own point to make and the chapters aren't long at all. In fact, they're pretty short. Second, when the book includes examples, it only includes speaks of situational examples versus John-and-Brenda tales, and only just enough to enhance a point just made. Third, not all men in our situation are the same, so not all chapters will apply. However, even those few chapters that haven't directly applied to me, I still found value to understand the big picture. For instance, she's been struggling with remarriage so soon after her divorce and the constant changes in her life, but reading about the struggles men have had to endure through coming into a marriage where the mother and her children were accustomed to years and years of single-parenthood, it helped find the positive side of things that we were otherwise finding difficult. So if she's feeling bitter about having to sell the house she bought with her ex-husband, there's a chapter here that will explain all of the completely different problems your marriage would have encountered had she not moved out. So you'll find both help in this book, but also hopefully some justification for your decisions of the past. I'm only half-way through at this point, but I've found enough gold in this book, including gold my fiancée and her children have responded to, that I'm already prepared to give it the 5 stars. Buy it.

I bought this for someone else and only leafed through it. But, it looked great-covered all the subject I hear step fathers complain about.

Someone else commented that this book is heavy on theory, and that's why I ended up getting it. I don't want to simply know what to say or do, I want to know why. It's still early in my own situation, but I found this to be an insightful introduction.

This is a great book for any soon to be stepfather. I highly recommend it to anybody that wants to gain more insight on what possible situations that a stepfather & mother may run into. Life is complex enough, so it never hurts to read up on subjects that can affect your life drastically!!

This book contains numerous short essays on topics facing stepfathers. It's well written and can be used as a reference guide as new fathers face the opportunities they are faced with in their new relationship.

Great advise.

The book is written like a how to guide to being a stepdad. It gives great advice. The only thing I wish it had was more information. Very well written.

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