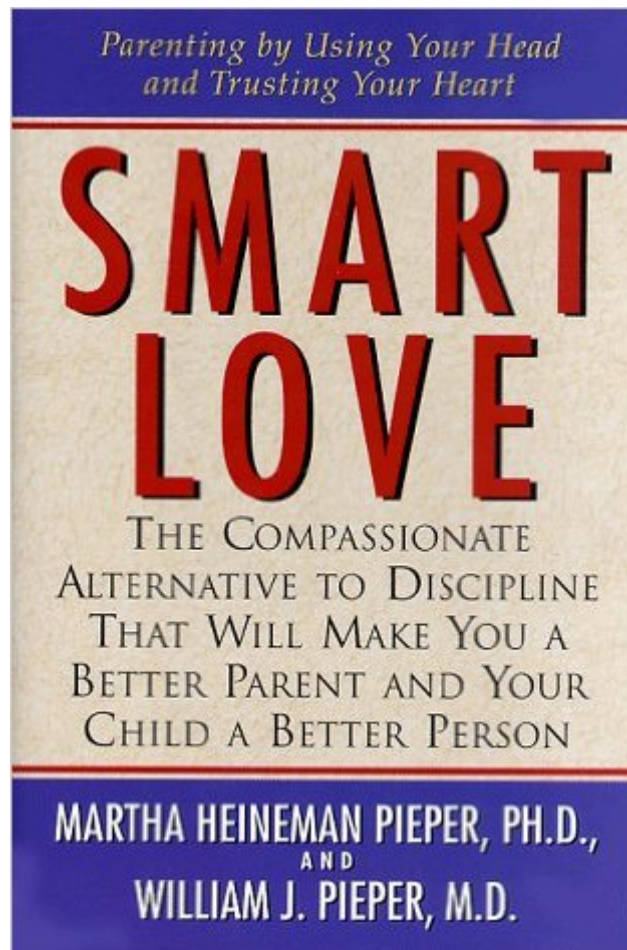


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# Smart Love: The Compassionate Alternative To Discipline That Will Make You A Better Parent And Your Child A Better Person



## Synopsis

Smart Love is a caring and patient approach to parenting created and tested by the husband-and-wife team of Dr. Martha Heineman Pieper and Dr. William J. Pieper. It replaces the old rewards-and-punishments style of parenting as behavior modification which turns parents into disciplinarians, which they don't want to be, and which treats children as miniature adults, which they aren't. Smart Love enables parents to understand the world through the eyes of their child at each stage of development. To Smart Love is to cultivate children's inner happiness while managing their behavior in age-appropriate ways, which ensures that children will grow up well behaved, responsible, self-confident, and able to reach their full potentials.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I LOVED this book. I am so tired of books that tell me how to control my kids' behavior as though they were supposed to respond like trained dogs. This book shows you how to raise children who will be caring adults who can take their place in a democratic society, not trained puppets who slavishly follow authority. Yet the authors are not permissive. They showed me parenting techniques that work in the short run and that unlike all the other books are also good for the long run. Buy this book -- it is crucial for every parent and for our society!

I have three children, and my shelves were filling up with parenting books. They told me "how to" but none of them told me "why." Now comes Smart Love, which tells me Why, When, What AND how to. I now know how to respond to my children today and also where they have been and where

they are going developmentally. For the first time, I really understand the meaning of behavior that has puzzled me with each child, for example, why they start clinging to my leg at about a year of age and don't let go for months. Wise and warm hearted and knowledgeable, Smart Love is the best book out there. No wonder Ann Landers recommends it.

No question this is a super parenting book -- and one of the few truly different and original ones I have ever read (and I have a shelf of them). The authors gave me so much to think about, in fact a whole new way of seeing my kids that warmed my heart and snapped me out of feeling like a hassled traffic cop. They put me back in touch with the everyday joy that can be part of parenting if you take their smart love perspective. See for yourself!

My five children range from 8 months to 13 years of age and I often feel the need for expert advice but don't want to buy a book for every child! Not only that, but I have not found the books I have read very helpful because they are either too harsh or too utopian and they are so narrowly applicable. Smart Love offers a coherent understanding of what parenting is all about and what growing up is all about. Smart Love is smart because it offers a game plan for parenting your child from birth through adolescence. The principles and guidelines make sense and carry forward. At the same time the book makes clear how my children's minds are changing and growing and what is reasonable to expect at every age. I have relied on this book for dilemmas I have had with each of my children and each time the advice has been terrific and the problem I was having was completely resolved. If you have children of any age, this is the book for you!

Finally, a child development book that understands development from a child's point of view! I have been an early childhood education teacher for over 20 years and this book is remarkably profound and accurate in regard to how children develop at each age and stage. This knowledge has helped me to fully understand how to create positive relationships with children in the classroom while simultaneously meeting each child's learning potential. I found "Loving Regulation," to be the most effective way to positively guide children's out-of-control or unwanted behavior while preserving their sense of self-esteem and confidence. I was thrilled to find out how much more motivated, enthusiastic and happy the children were without the use of disciplinary measures such as rewards, punishments, or consequences. I learned that these disciplinary measures were undermining the children's sense of confidence as well as inhibiting their learning in the long run. I also realized that when children were treated with disciplinary measures the very behaviors I was trying to regulate

would actually worsen over time. When I applied the principles of Smart Love, children gained an inner sense of self-regulation through our positive relationship together; I could regulate challenging behaviors without compromising a child's positive self-regard. Smart Love principles are effective ways to bring pleasure to teaching as well as inspire children to view teachers as a bridge to their own competence. These practical and effective principles are visionary; they set a positive foundation for relationships, later learning years and foster life-long learners. I highly recommend this book to anyone who cares for children and is interested in fostering happy, well-adjusted, successful individuals in and out of the classroom.

I didn't find the book very helpful (a lot of the information seems pretty intuitive for most parents I know). There are some points I agree with, especially regarding discipline and time outs. Yet I also thought the book had a tone of blame - if your kids are acting up and seem unhappy it is because you are not paying enough attention to them or giving them the right kind of love, which leads to the inner unhappiness because they think you want them to be unhappy. Give me a break. I devote my life to my children (I am home with them full time which I am thankful and happy to do), but now after reading the book I feel I'm not doing enough. Ever tried to cook dinner with a one year old and three year old whining at your feet? Especially when you don't do TV (as we don't)? And you have tried to involve your three year old in the cooking and distract the one year old with a fun activity and they are STILL whining and crying for attention? And you haven't had enough sleep and the laundry is piled up and your spouse is late getting home from work etc. etc.? The book makes it sound like you can just drop everything and be loving to your children and then things will be great. I would have appreciated some more concrete suggestions and also a little more recognition of inborn personality traits and the nature/nurture debate. I know many people who had crappy childhoods who are happy and productive people.

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