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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

For Parents of Deaf Children. Doris W. Naiman and Jerome D. Schein. Washington, D. C.: National Association of the Deaf, 1978. 57 pp., (paperback)

For Parents of Deaf Children is just that, for parents. In a casual mixture of anecdotal comments, experiences, and research, the authors offer items of solid information clothed in an attitude of warmth and optimism. Parental feelings, expectations and practical concerns are gently touched and sensitively handled. The book format, using a number of pictures, brief written sections, and a picture story appendix, appears deceptively simple. It is short, easy reading, but the issues raised and the practical tips offered are not simplistic.

Parents of deaf children will find in the six chapters of the book a general theme of 'love and accept your deaf child as a child'.

Mixed with the theme of acceptance are practical comments concerning specific ways a parent might encourage the deaf child to travel independently, positive actions the parents might take to encourage appropriate social interactions, and greatly worded advice on such difficult questions as where should a deaf child be educated?

Rather than presenting all one needs to know about deafness, the authors have chosen to cover a few topics. The careful mixture of research-supported facts and attention to parental feelings and emotions should appeal particularly to parents new to deafness.

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