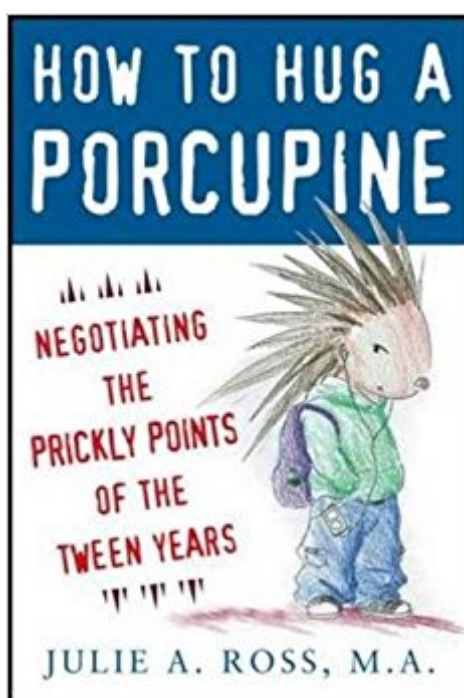


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# How To Hug A Porcupine: Negotiating The Prickly Points Of The Tween Years (Family & Relationships)



## Synopsis

“You never listen to anything I say!” • Yesterday, your child was a sweet, well-adjusted eight-year-old. Today, a moody, disrespectful twelve-year-old. What happened? And more important, how do you handle it? How you respond to these whirlwind changes will not only affect your child’s behavior now but will determine how he or she turns out later. Julie A. Ross, executive director of Parenting Horizons, shows you exactly what’s going on with your child and provides all the tools you need to correctly handle even the prickliest tween porcupine. Find out how other parents survived nightmarish tween behavior--and still raised great kids Break the nagging cycle, • give your kids responsibilities, and get results Talk about sex, drugs, and alcohol so your kid will listen Discover the secret that will help your child to disregard peer pressure and make smart choices--for life "This excellent book lets parents peek into the underlying, confusing thoughts and perplexing decisions that young tweens are constantly facing."--Ralph I. L'Abate, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Cornell University, and author of The Teen Health Book

## Book Information

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Teenagers

## Customer Reviews

"Ross's central metaphor, 'tweens' as prickly-but-loveable porcupines, is funny and effective, and her writing style is easy-going, making this an accessible and practical primer." ---Library Journal

--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Julie A. Ross, M.A., is the author of *Joint Custody with a Jerk* and executive director of Parenting Horizons, an organization that offers regular workshops for parents and teachers as well as private counseling. She has appeared on *œThe Daily Show with Jon Stewart,* *œToday,* *œThe Montel Williams Show,* and others.

I really liked this book. The message: you really cannot control your kids in high school...thus, middle school is a good time to focus on guiding vs controlling and making sure your relationship stays strong so they will come to you when they have challenges in high school. How to do that without being a push-over and still having limits is the core of the book. Lots of very specific ideas about how to interact with tweens. And a super helpful caterpillar/crysilis analogy that I found eye-opening. I found the book really helpful, and highly recommend it. I just bought a copy to give to my mom to help grandma think about new ways to interact with her tween grandkid. My only caveat would be to take the last couple chapters with a giant grain of salt, as they are outdated. It would be ideal if the author updated the book. The chapter on technology references Myspace and Friendster, which gives you some idea of how dated the book is (were they still relevant even in 2008?). And the chapter on sex ed suggests, albeit reluctantly, that it might be OK for parents with religious concerns about homosexuality to tell their gay tweens/teens that it's OK to be gay as long as you live your life without ever acting on those feelings. At best, an anachronistic message. But...there is so much good advice about interacting with your tween in this book. Just give those sections a pass to gather the gold in the other chapters.

Excellent advice for navigating some of the everyday conversations; some things should be taken with a grain of salt or keeping your family's unique dynamic and individual differences in personality in mind. The best part of this book? Practical strategies and how they might be employed in realistic interactions! Some tips from the book: family meetings, conversing with your recalcitrant teen without getting overwhelmed, avoiding letting your child rely on you to save the day every time they s/he has difficulty...after employing some of these, I can say they really have helped.

It is just what I need to help navigate my grandchildren's passages into the teen years, and hopefully help dull those sharp edges. I partnered this with *Getting to Calm* and feel that I am better prepared to help these tweenagers with what they are experiencing

Read this to help navigate the preteen years. Easy read, recommended it to other parents who have

kids that are tweens.

Great book! I love the techniques, they are really helpful.

We need more books like this! The Tween years are hard to handle, and we cannot change the child. We can, however, change our own attitudes and arm ourselves with knowledge that will help us to be the best adult we can be, focusing on the future and what kind of adult we want our child to become.

If you are a parent thinking ahead, or wondering how to handle issues (and when), this book is just what you need. It isn't a "how to" - it is a "here is the perspective you need to make your own decisions". While every example obviously won't suit your family situation, you will be getting a real dose of reality about the issues your children and their friends (and their friends' families) will be dealing with. Ms Ross approaches every issue with common sense and clear thinking. In several cases, I couldn't see myself handling the issues the way they were handled in the examples, but seeing how someone handled them is invaluable in thinking about what might be best in your family. The sections on drugs and sex were especially valuable for two reasons: 1) the advice was clear and sensible, and 2) if you think you can skirt the issues, or avoid tackling them head-on, you won't after you read this book - as Ms Ross guides you through the issues and various ways to handle them, she also makes clear exactly what is at stake for your child and his or her personal safety and happiness. If you are a concerned parent, you will find this highly intelligent book filled with thoughtful advice and interesting perspective on how other parents in this generation are dealing with this generation's issues. I've read lots of advice books, and none of them are perfect. But this is the one that left me with the clearest plans for dealing with critical Tween issues. Parenting isn't about reading a book and doing what it tells you - it's about understanding issues, and figuring out how to deal with them in a way that best suits you and your children. Ms Ross' book is a wonderful resource for intelligent, thinking parents.

I've only read the first few chapters and I have already been able to identify things I don't handle well with our 'tween. I also was able to tell our 'tween that the book told me things she had already told me.

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