

Girls and Divorce

Ackerman, Marc J. (1997). *“Does Wednesday mean Mom’s house or Dad’s?” Parenting together while living apart.* New York: John Wiley. ISBN 0-471-13048-6. \$18.95.

Written by a psychologist and a child custody expert, this book is directed at parents who are going through the process of divorce, but the child’s point of view is definitely represented. The author feels that “knowledge is one of the keys to lessening the impact of divorce on children.” He advises the reader to inform the children about what is happening, preferable *before* the events occur, but not to burden them with unnecessary details. A sample of chapter content follows: young children are concrete thinkers in an abstract situation, boys and girls react differently, physical or sexual abuse: confounding dilemmas, grandparents: help or hindrance, and custody disputes.

Buchanan, Christy M., Maccoby, Eleanor E. & Dornbusch, Sanford M. (1996). *Adolescents after divorce.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University. ISBN 0-674-00170-2. Price \$19.95.

An academic treatment of this subject which follows 1,100 families, focusing on the period beginning four years after the divorce, to explore the changes in their lives. The families come from a wide range of backgrounds and are experiencing a variety of outcomes, both positive and negative. Some of the findings include: remarried new partners were better accepted than cohabitating new partners and when parents’ relations are amicable, adolescents in dual custody are less likely than other adolescents to experience loyalty conflicts.

Ricci, Isolina. (1997). *Mom’s house, Dad’s house: Making two homes for your child.* New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-684-83078-7. \$14.00.

A revised and updated version of a book originally published 22 years ago, written by a licensed family therapist who heads the statewide office of Family Court services for the California judicial branch, this guide is for parents who are separated, divorced, or remarried. Topics include: joint custody does not mean equal time, calming children’s fears and rebuilding their trust, guidelines to keep kids out of the middle, a checklist for keeping in touch and a great deal more. There are almost 400 pages of practical information. If you can buy only one book for adults, this is the one.

Schaefer, Charles E. & DiGeronimo, Theresa Foy. (1994). *How to talk to your kids about really important things: for children four to twelve: specific questions and useful things to say.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. ISBN 1-55542-611-5. \$16.50.

This handy resource also appears in the Resources section of Growing TogetherSM of the Girls Inc.® Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy curriculum. Specific questions, answers, and useful things to say are included in chapters addressing major changes in family life. In this case, the divorce chapter (pages 63 to 75) offers brief advice for parents. Further reading recommendations are suggested. For a more in depth treatment of the subject see Ricci’s book described above.

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Weisberg, Carole D. (2000). *Children of divorce in school-age care: A resource for the school-age care professional and youth care specialist*. Nashville, TN: School-Age Notes. ISBN 0-917505-11-5. \$12.95

Practical advice from the author who has been a consultant for New England Counseling and Mediation where she conducts state-mandated parent education classes. She is currently a Program Associate at Yale University's School of the 21st Century. In the section containing reproducibles, there is an opportunity for staff to select advice that would be useful in their particular affiliate situation. Useful for training workshops on girls' behavior with advice on staff can do and should avoid. The section of recommended resources contains many older book titles, which may be available only in a library, but the list has been updated by adding web sites.

Wolf, Anthony E. (1991). *Get out of my life, but first could you drive me and Cheryl to the mall?: A parent's guide to the new teenager*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. ISBN 0-374-52322-3. \$11.00.

The irresistible title makes this book the most commonly replaced resource in the NRC Library. By 2000 it had been reprinted twenty-seven times! The author is a practicing clinical psychologist and was father to two teenagers. Contrary to the humorous title, the chapters include topics that are very serious indeed. The one most pertinent to this list is chapter 7 about divorce. Short crisp sentences make this a reader-friendly book with quotes from teens and parents expressing their feelings about divorce, followed by the author's professional advice.

