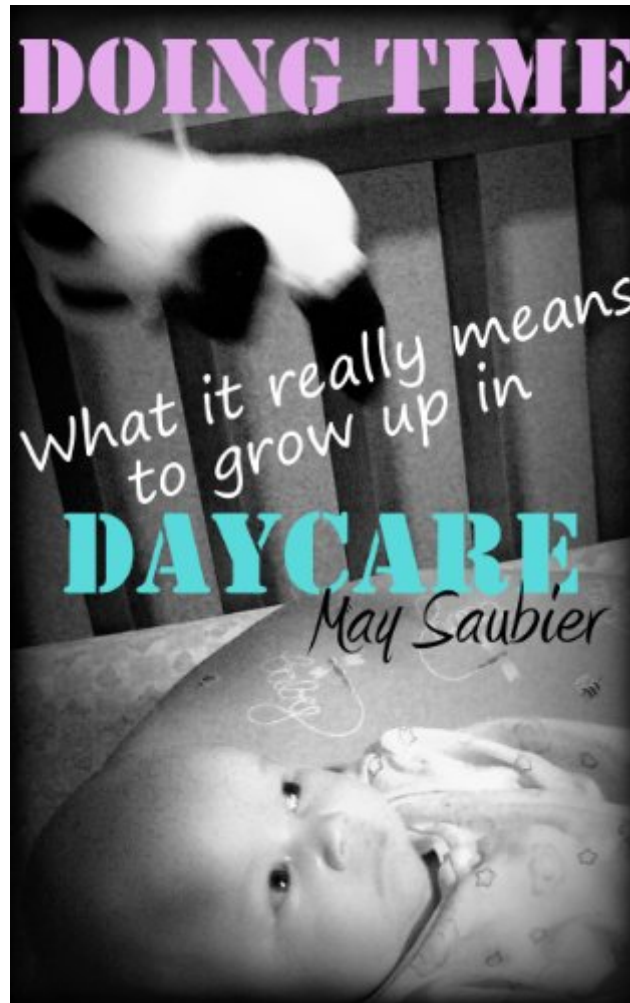


The book was found

Doing Time: What It Really Means To Grow Up In Daycare



Synopsis

Millions of American children spend much of their childhood in daycare. May Saubier, dismisses the daycare debate and instead illustrates how the very foundation of daycare is flawed. For the first time, parents step into the lives of their children as she reveals a typical daycare existence. Each chapter documents what Saubier, an experienced educator and daycare provider, has witnessed and the impact felt by the children who "do time" there each week. While the negative aspects of daycare are uncovered in each chapter, Saubier does not expose readers to abuse or neglect as defined by the courts. Rather, her readers gain entry into reputable facilities nestled in affluent, suburban settings. These establishments adhere to the state licensing laws and reside in states with the best child-to-staff ratios in the country. In fact, each one touts lengthy waiting lists. Saubier, therefore, has experienced daycare at its best. Despite this, she continues to mourn for the infants, toddlers and preschoolers who "do time" five days a week.

Book Information

File Size: 404 KB

Print Length: 111 pages

Publication Date: January 7, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006UYCWGA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #316,684 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Babysitting, Day Care & Child Care #261 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships >

Motherhood #846 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Motherhood

Customer Reviews

My review on "Doing Time" First, it's an easy read. It just takes a few hours to read but it's packed with some very interesting first hand accounts of life as a center staff assistant spanning a number of years with experience primarily in infant care but also in two to four year old care. She comes to

the table with the academic creds and experience to have an opinion worth considering. I've never worked in a center. My only experience with centers has been nearly a year of watching multiple cameras for two centers to supervise staff and as a health and safety consultant for both centers. The kind of experiences she wrote about are exactly what I watched in the infant and toddler rooms. I could easily relate to her analysis of "one of many" care as I had watched this unfold day after day in my consulting job. The first thing I was digging was that she defined "teacher" and "school" and used this throughout the book. She made many references to the misconception that center care is school and the staff assistants are being called teachers. I wish she would have gone even further and advised that State's and regulating agencies REQUIRE centers to STOP using these words and to fully disclose what staff workers are indeed licensed teachers and which ones are not. They should also require some academic criteria with performance/testing statistics if they are going to refer to themselves as a school. In my state you can call yourself a preschool and BAM you are a preschool. She talked about ratios and did a very nice comparison between states. She also explained how center workers turn over rate is extremely high and how between the different shifts of workers, a child can have multiple unskilled workers over a single day, week, months, and years.

I've always been torn about my decision to quit my job and stay at home with my child, as it was expected that I would continue working by nearly everyone in my life - but this book really helped to encourage me that it was the right decision. I was in the unique position of having help from one of my children's grandparents for the first 5 months, so I have been a working/pumping Mom during that duration - but for a long time I considered continuing working past their year of offered help - and putting my son in group care around 12 months. My reasons for this were the absolutely glowing reviews of a local daycare center from my highly respected working peers, which made it seem possible to hold onto my high paying job (retirement security, college funds, vacations, etc). Ultimately I just made an emotional decision, because I desperately missed my child - but, this book is very encouraging because it makes me feel less guilty about the missed income, and outlines how neglected children can be due to the 4:1 or greater child to provider ratio. I have had some experience with the phenomena described in the book directly, I just always assumed it was because I was not officially trained in childcare. For a while, I volunteered in our church's daycare on the weekend, thinking it would be great preparation at the time of the birth of my child, and a great way to give back to the community. It was heartrending. What this book says about "good babies" being ignored is sadly true; a happy baby will get less attention than the baby who is bawling for its parents.

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