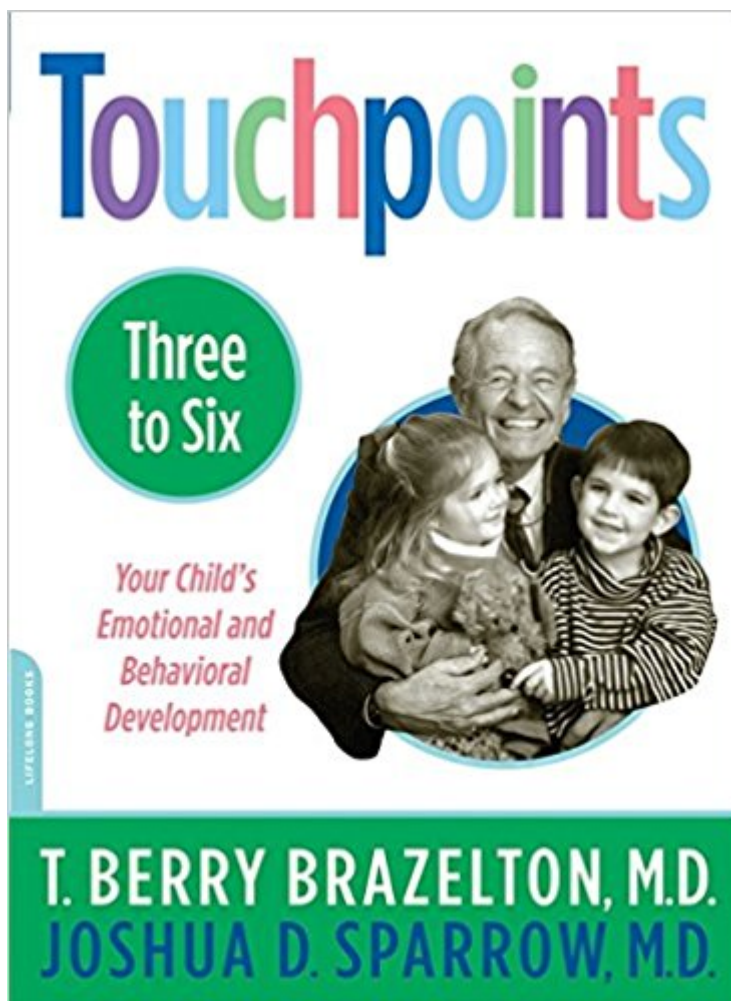


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# Touchpoints 3 To 6



## Synopsis

For decades, new parents have relied on Dr. Brazelton's wisdom. But all "Brazelton babies" grow up. Now at last, the internationally famous pediatrician, in collaboration with an eminent child psychiatrist, has brought his unique insights to the "magic" preschool and first-grade years. Through delightful profiles of four very different children, the authors apply the touchpoints theory (following the pattern of growth-new challenge-regression-recharging-and renewed growth) to each of the great cognitive, behavioral, and emotional leaps that occur from age three to six. In the second, alphabetical, half of the book they offer precious guidance to parents facing contemporary pressures and stresses, such as how to keep a child safe without instilling fear, countering the electronic barrage of violent games and marketing aimed at children, coping successfully with varied family configurations, over-scheduling, competition, and many other vital issues today. A Merloyd Lawrence Book

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Like a soothing tonic, Touchpoints Three to Six offers a simple theory and plenty of sound advice to parents who struggle with their child's ever-changing moods and behaviors. Noted pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., bestselling author of *Infants and Mothers* and *Touchpoints*, builds on his theory that kids essentially "rev up" prior to reaching developmental milestones (like walking, talking, and potty training). Unfortunately for the whole family, such revving typically involves temper

tantrums, night waking, and regression. Teaming with child psychiatrist Joshua D. Sparrow, M.D., Dr. Brazelton offers compassionate suggestions for recognizing key touchpoints in children 3 to 6 years old, helping kids work through them, and keeping one's cool throughout the process. The first four chapters--one per age--provide fairly exhaustive study material on five topics: temperament, learning, moral development, building relationships, and separation and independence. To make the reading more engaging, Brazelton and Sparrow whip up four imaginary children, each with a distinct temperament, learning ability, and level of adaptability. Their shared experiences--from exploring the playground at age 3 to "entering the real world" during their 6th year--provide a helpful backdrop for discussing a myriad of pertinent issues. Smart dialogue, accurate depiction of parents' emotional responses, and surprise discoveries both amusing and serious all add to the breadth of information covered. The second half of the book offers about 200 pages of alphabetically arranged "perennials" and "current issues," for troubleshooting specifics like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, computers, divorce, habits, sadness, and toilet learning. An excellent resource for those who support empathetic parenting. --Liane Thomas --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Venerable pediatrician Brazelton (*Touchpoints*) teams up with child psychologist Joshua D. Sparrow to adapt his theory of "touchpoints" to children ages three to six. In his earlier work, Brazelton explained that infants undergo periods of behavioral regression (touchpoints) before each developmental burst. Here he addresses issues like sibling rivalry, bedwetting, tantrums and lying as normal aspects of development, and suggests ways parents can be emotionally supportive. The first of the book's two major sections follows four imaginary children with varying, composite temperaments (an active boy, a quiet boy, an intense girl and a cheerful girl), exploring everything from adjusting to a new sibling to making friends. Readers may soon find themselves skipping all but the portions directly related to their own child's temperament type (and weeding out the fictional scenes to get to the nitty-gritty of what to do when a child lies, wets the bed, etc.). In the second section, the authors straightforwardly discuss various contemporary parenting concerns, such as the pros and cons of computers and dealing with divorce. Throughout, Brazelton and Sparrow maintain a characteristically comforting tone, reminding parents that it's best to accept a child's temperament while helping her adapt to the world. The authors not only point toward the predictable touchpoints for this age group but note that parents, too, may react to transition in certain ways, such as worrying that one is abandoning their first child when a new baby arrives. As always, Brazelton's poised, encouraging voice guides parents through the developmental maze. Photos.

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I read Brazelton forty years ago when my first baby was born. It was very helpful when trying to navigate the rough storms of child-rearing. Now I have grandchildren. My first was a dream. She was always agreeable and never fussy. Then, as she approached three and a new baby was on the way, she started to cling to mommy and became upset at a moment's notice. Going to bed became difficult. So I ordered the Brazelton books for me and her parents. Immediately I remembered some things I knew before and picked up some pointers I had never known. This book is easy to understand and soooooo helpful.

Concise, readable, sensitive, relevant, useful, effective, calming + confidence-building to the parent, and more. Our pediatrician recommended his Touchpoints, and neither I nor my wife have had any regrets with either volume. In fact, if I had to buy only 1 parenting advice book, I'd buy Brazelton. (tho considering his Touchpoints-Birth to Three & TP:3-6 as a 2-volume set of "1 book!") With this volume, the biggest "downcheck" lies with the parents: For the TP:B-3 book, most parents are still in their "check the manual" phase. By the time parents get to Brazelton's TP:3-6 volume, the training wheels have come off, parents are in cruise-control, and all the parenting books are collecting dust with the flotsam and jetsam of early childhood.\*... until night terrors or some other unexpected adventure bursts into the scene!! At that point, it's so beneficial for parents to recall that they have a reserve battery of TBB's advice waiting for them on their shelf.\* Please excuse my mixing 3 metaphors in 1 sentence!

I am a retired nurse educator; maternal/child nursing was my masters-level major, neonatal intensive care was my clinical specialty. Brazelton is my decades-long idol for helping me to read infant behavioral cues and to respond to them, as well as to transmit same to parents. I bought Brazelton's original "Touchpoints: The Essential Reference" as soon as it was published in 1992; I still treasure that well-worn copy. I give to new parent and grandparent friends the revised version, which I believe now has a title that indicates it is for newborns to age three. I have not read it, but it seems to fit the "essential reference" theme. For "Touchpoints 3 to 6", Brazelton uses a case study approach that builds on the premises established in the reference. I like case studies, so I would give this book five stars if I didn't know that not all readers can use case studies. Readers who have internalized the premises established in the first book may find it more useful than those who have

not.

Dr. Brazelton seems to be a gentle and loving advocate for children, and a doctor who understands them! I've read other books by him and enjoyed them very much, and been comforted by them, and was looking forward to this addition to his work. Unfortunately I agree with most of the other comments made here, that the format makes it much more difficult to find specific information. Because the authors use four composite children to describe many events and behaviors, it makes it difficult to tease out what is relevant. Our toddler is very similar in temperament to "Billy", but Billy supposedly grew up with an abusive father for a while and his mother has remarried -- nothing like our child's experience -- so what becomes irrelevant in the text and what can we still use? Largely told as lengthy narratives, it takes a long time to find useful ideas, but there is a good index that helps. Despite the poor format, the ideas here are solid and helpful. Brazelton and Sparrow posit that as children reach milestones of development they backslide in other areas -- a usually peaceful child suddenly indulging in temper tantrums as they begin to conquer speech, for example. We've found Brazelton's ideas helpful and spot-on, and there are unique events in this age range that make the book useful, though the clunky format keeps it from being invaluable.

Brazelton's discussions of child development and his parenting tips are spot-on and very well supported by research (and common sense). I really dislike the format of this book, though. It's written as a narrative about 4 children with different temperaments and it makes it difficult to locate information and to figure out what's relevant to your own child.

Must get a copy for my daughter in law! She has a 3 1/2 year old boy who can be quite a handful.

as described would buy from again

This was the best book for me when I brought home babies. For me it covered all the topics that I had to deal with be it good bad or somewhere in between.

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