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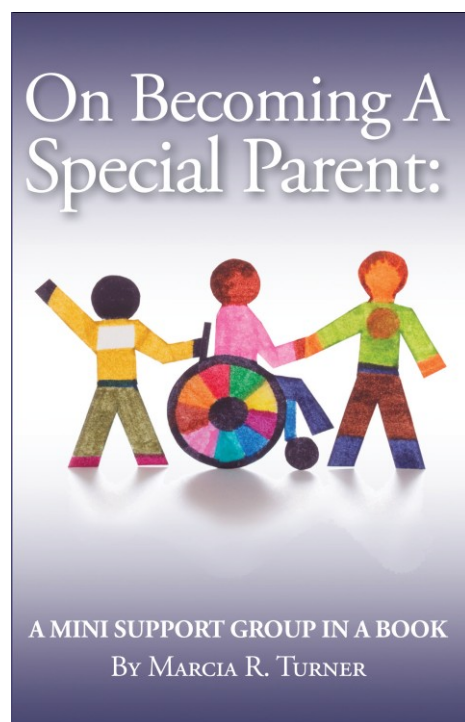
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reviews of *On Becoming a Special Parent: A Mini Support Group in a Book*

US ISBN: 978-965-544-004-1
\$15.95 US

Mother gives hope, advice with book, By Sue Davis Smith, Gazette Lifestyle writer (1st Publishing)

In the first chapter of Marcia R. Turner's book is a fable from the Talmud, a collection of Jewish writings.



The story tells of a woman so bereft with grief over her own misfortunes that she asks the king how she can go on with life. His response was, "Go find a house with no sorrow." The woman searched and at each house she heard tales of woe and sorrow. She ended up comforting those who were suffering until her own sorrows lessened. She then found a new purpose in life.

It's an appropriate beginning for the book, "*On Becoming a Special Parent.*" Turner, a Chicago resident and mother of a child with cerebral palsy, has taken her own misfortune, redirected it and offers in book form hope and advice for parents of special children.

When Turner's daughter, Esther, was born 7 ½ years ago, she says dreams were shattered.

What remained, though, was hope and the reality that there was no one place to get the kind of information or advice she needed to raise a special child.

"I was at a friend's house and she had a parenting book there, and as I looked at it I said this just doesn't help me at all. I saw what I needed was a book that was

practical and was directed to the mother to help her get through the day,' says Turner in an interview with The Gazette.

With Esther in the hospital for multiple surgeries, Turner had time to begin thinking about such a book. She began by talking to professionals and parents like herself and asked them one question. "If you had to offer one hint for parents of a child with special needs, what would you say?"

From that small network, her sources grew nationwide and the advice came. The end result is an easy-to-read paperback of 130 pages. Turner calls it a mini-support group in a book. Hints include:

- Adapting toys for special children.
- Where to find respite care and the importance of moms taking some time for themselves.
- When to explain your child's condition to strangers and how to present the child to the public.
- How to understand insurance forms and the mounds of paperwork.
- A handy referral guide on what specialist is needed for child's condition.

The first chapter of Turner's book is called, "You are the most important person." It's geared toward the mothers of special children, "since most likely the bulk of responsibility for the child will fall upon them."

THE FIRST ADVICE she offers is to face the facts of your child's condition. Then adapt to your situation.

Despair, guilt and loneliness may be a parent's companion that first year, she says, but it can be eased by befriending other special parents. "...Talk to other parents. That way you get rid of a lot of stress and anger and you know you're not alone."

Esther, who now has two younger siblings, is physically very slow, says Turner. "She's trapped in her body and can't use her limbs. But when we talk to her, you see she understands and her face lights up."

Turner's own enlightenment as a parent of a special child is evident in the book's dedication. "To Esther who, without saying a word, has taught me more than any speaking person."

Dealing with a 'special' child, Saturday Daily Journal (1st Publishing)

One night during the summer of my senior year in college, I received a call from a former high school teacher. Mr. Brown and his wife were eagerly anticipating the milestones their child would achieve – his first step, his first word, his first day of school, his first baseball game.

Suddenly, their dreams were shattered. The pediatrician pronounced the words of doom — the words every parent dreads. “We need to talk. There is a problem with your child.”

But life is not over. Not for the mother, father, other family members or for the new child.

As this new defenseless, unique person is born, the parents are becoming part of a new world they probably never contemplated. This realm is the world of the parent of a handicapped child.

A barrage of sensations and emotions pounds the hearts of the parents. Denial, anger, fear, sadness, guilt and bitterness all infiltrate a bewildered mind, clashing on a sore spot, leaving one confused and emotionally drained.

Thanks to the advances of modern medicine, many of these children grow to be independent individuals, but that does not happen overnight or by osmosis. It takes many hours, days and years of hard work. The sooner the work begins, the better off the child will be. An early start is the single most important factor in rehabilitation.

Unfortunately, doctors and nurses give little or no advice, no books are recommended. Parents are left to cope entirely on their own. But how does the parent find out what exactly is wrong with their child, where to go for help, what to do for him, what rights she has or how to function day to day?

For this reason, Marcia R. Turner wrote the book *On Becoming a Special Parent*. This mini-support group in a text gives a lot of practical advice and common-sense information based on the author’s own experience raising her handicapped daughter.

...This paperback book is such a God send to parents and professionals that I feel every household with a “special” child should have one.

Can Life Really Go On With a Handicapped Child?

Interview the “Dr. Spock” for Special Parents

Today millions of families are raising their handicapped children at home and “mainstreaming” them into normal society.

Marcia R. Turner, author of *On Becoming a Special Parent*, has counseled thousands of parents and professionals. A single parent of three, including a nine-year-old daughter with severe brain damage, Turner can give your audience first-hand advice about the options available for parents of special children.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS: Where are the role models for raising a special child at home? How do you win the battle with professionals? What are some tips on preserving a “normal” family life? What can friends and relatives do to help? How do you keep your sanity?