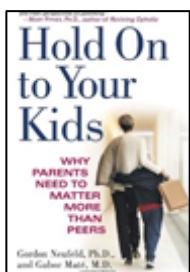


January 2012



The book we will preview this month is a very readable book, titled *Hold Onto Your Kids* by Gordon Neufeld, PH.D and Gabor Mate, M.D. Here a psychologist and a physician join forces to tackle one of the most disturbing and misunderstood trends of our time – peers replacing parents in the lives of our children. Dr. Neufeld has dubbed this phenomenon peer orientation, which refers to the tendency of children and youth to look to their peers for direction: for the sense of right and wrong, for values, identity and codes of behavior. But peer orientation undermines family cohesion, sabotages healthy development, poisons the school atmosphere, and fosters an aggressively hostile and sexualized youth culture.

*Hold Onto Your Kids* helps parents understand this disturbing phenomenon and provides solutions to restore the intuitive child – parent bond to its rightful preeminence. The concepts, principles and practical advice contained in *Hold Onto Your Kids* will empower parents to be for their children what nature intended; the true source of contact, security and warmth.

The authors of this book have written it with the radical intent of reawakening people's natural parenting instincts. Their focus is not on what parents should do but on who they need to be for their children. They offer here an understanding of the child, of child development, and also of the impediments that today stand in the way of the healthy development of our children. From that understanding and from the heartfelt commitment parents bring to the task of child-rearing will arise the spontaneous and compassionate wisdom that is the source of successful parenting. In today's world, for reasons that will be made clear in this book, parenthood is being undermined. We face much insidious competition that would draw our children away from us while, simultaneously, we are drawn away from parenthood. We no longer have the economic and social basis for a culture that would support parenthood and hold its mission sacred.