

# BookReview

May 25, 2000

By John Williams  
STAFF COLUMNIST

## **Why Would I Want The Toy When I Could Have The Box?**

By Rex Bowlby  
Pacific Horizon Press

The subtitle of this fascinating book is "101 Ways to make the Most of Your Children With the Least From Your Wallet." Parents of young children would do well to read it. The guidelines presented should result in a better understanding of parent-child relationships, the cultivation of a child's curiosity, and lots of fun for the family.

Not that this is a clinical study about parenting. Far from it! The book is actually a very entertaining and practical guide on how parents and family can benefit through the unconventional behavior of

kids. And at the same time, the children help satisfy their need to learn. Author Rex Bowlby has taken personal family experiences and written an enjoyable book about them. The tale of his son playing with the box, rather than the gift that was in it, resulted in the title to this book.

Of course, not all families have the same experiences. But everything described in this book will cover any event, behavior or peculiar circumstance that occurs between a parent and a child. The activities are simple yet educational. For instance, take a child cloud gazing. See what shapes and forms can be picked out. You will witness your child's imagination and space perception. Or, give your kids cans of shaving cream and let them go at it in the back yard. You'll see laughter and creativity.

Also, make household chores fun to do. All children like to play with water, so why not let them wash the car or do the dishes? You can always clean up after them.

Kids need outlets for energy and enthusiasm. This book tells you how to use and enjoy both.

Each of the thirteen chapters are designed to respond to the necessary ingredients in the parenting recipe. Topics, with examples, include self confidence, imagination, creativity, family roots, bonding, as well as self-esteem and good health. Parents should enjoy the chapter dealing with creativity. It covers simple things parents can encourage their children to try, like making a paper airplane, or discovering the many roles for a toilet paper or paper towel cylinder. Just a paper and a pencil in the

hands of a child can produce imaginative surprises. Sand, chalk, or a large cardboard box can provide endless entertainment. Stimulating creativity in a child also develops his or her imagination and self-esteem.

Bowlby correctly points out that positive reinforcement for your children helps establish a parent-child bond so essential in today's fast paced world. Instead of allowing them to watch TV or play computer games, take some time and teach your kids how to grow a plant, collect insects, understand how an appliance works, or challenge them to a hilarious game of charades. Children from ages 3 to 6 will be surprised at their parents' intelligence and amazed at their own learning skills.

Rex Bowlby has produced a winner. Mothers should expect to hand this book down to their daughters when they get married. It will never be out of style.

Persons interested in buying a copy should call Pacific Horizon Press at 770-591-4662. The web site is [www.pacifichorizonpress.com](http://www.pacifichorizonpress.com).

Also, the book is available through [barnesandnobles.com](http://barnesandnobles.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Lakeside Ledger  
Woodstock, GA  
May 25, 2000