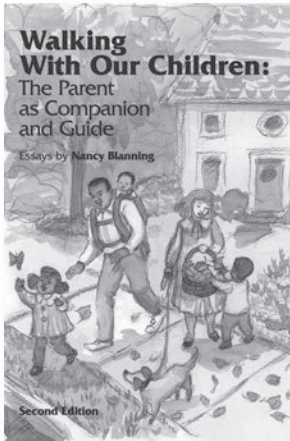


Walking With Our Children: The Parent as Companion and Guide

Nancy Blanning

(Second edition, WECAN, 2024)

Reviewed by Ruth Ker



I invite you to spend time with this edited volume of wise and compassionate advice for parents. Although it is a wonderful resource for parents, and a support for the children of the world, it is also valuable for the Early Childhood practitioner who wants to find the words and ways to express important perspectives

to parents. As I write this, I'm remembering the many years of searching for just the right words or an article to give to the parents of the children in my kindergarten classes. I wish Nancy's book had been published then.

This book is a deed of love, arising out of many years of experience with families and the publication of Nancy Blanning's reflections in *LILIPOH* magazine and elsewhere.

Some of the original articles were published in 2010. In the preface, Nancy notes that the world that the parent is interfacing with in our time has had unprecedented shifts and is very different now from when she first began to write these articles. The edits within this second edition reflect the march of

time and the consequent environmental impacts that children and parents experience in our world. She avoids no topic.

Just for a little taste, I'll share that one of my favorite titles is called, "Guiding our Children: Enter the Flow and Let Go." In this offering, Nancy reflects on scenarios where adults have been able to sense the right moment to guide the child into a different direction without an abrupt transitional shock, rather than meeting a routine change with an impatient and critical response.

All of the articles in this volume are gifts, aimed at supporting adults to invest in the intentional and conscientious care of children. Every article will be helpful to early childhood caregivers, parents, grandparents, and anyone who wishes to approach caring for children with consciousness. Titles such as "The Parent's Question: What About Me?," "Preventing Addiction," "Childhood Learned Helplessness," "Love and Tolerance in Hard Times," "Leaping into the Fray of What to Say," "Whose Idea Is Your Child Thinking," "Gender Identity, More Complicated than Ever," "Show Me How to Do Life" — all of these and more are of interest to us in the beloved work we share in common. In her book, Nancy has shared a lifetime of thought-provoking experience which can assist us in our mission of helping children incarnate with strength into this life that they have chosen.

Thank you to Nancy for this valuable contribution. It is most certainly a deed of love. ♦