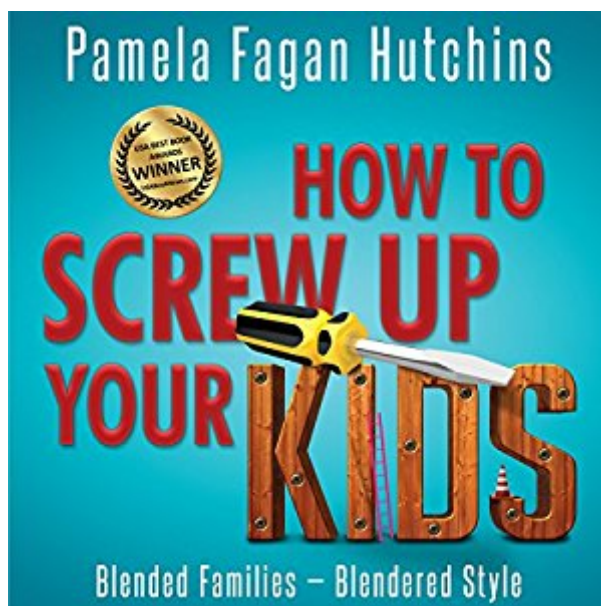


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# How To Screw Up Your Kids: Blended Families, Blended Style



## Synopsis

Married couples with children divorce 40 percent of the time. In less than three years after that divorce, chances are both mom and dad are remarried, and probably each to someone who has kids of their own. The single most explosive and divisive issue in those marriages? Stepparenting. Wouldn't it be nice if we all lived in a bubble gum and sugar plum world where, without a ripple on Lake Placid, kids embraced stepparents and appreciated their contributions? Where stepsiblings didn't compete for attention and argue over favorites and fairness? Well, we don't. So what we need when stepparenting is a good plan. A plan for blending, or blendering if you will, the disparate stepchildren and their parents into a chunky smoothie of stepfamily goodness. *How To Screw Up Your Kids* helps the parents everyone predicts will fail prove all the naysayers wrong. Through the use of practical human relations principles and the author's achingly honest and often hilarious stories, listeners will learn to envision and instill a unique set of family values and culture into their new household, and by God, have fun doing it.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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Stepparenting & Blended Families #1673 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Health, Mind & Body

> Family & Relationships #9682 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting

## Customer Reviews

Pamela has done it again. Always inspiring, always entertaining, always relative. As a woman with a blended family, I can relate to so many of her stories, and find both comfort and encouragement in them. A self-described over-achiever, Pamela takes her roles as wife, mother, and step-mother as seriously as she takes her professional roles...Seriously enough to have a plan in place to succeed...A plan that she shares with the reader (helpful information!). Through humorous and

engaging stories she reveals that she also has the grace to NOT take herself or life's curve balls TOO seriously. This book is not only entertaining, but shows that you CAN balance the drive to succeed with enough grace and love to discover that you are a part of a wonderful, perfectly imperfect family...blended or not! A MUST READ for any parent!

What a great read! The stories that the author shares as they relate to the principles that she outlines as her road map for raising her children are wonderful. Unlike other "How To" books, this isn't an instruction manual of things to do or ways to do them, but more a collection of one families life experiences that show not only parenting done right, but also instances where the wrong/not-quite-right decisions were made by family member(s) and other external forces (i.e. school administration, teachers, e.g.) and how those instances were used as learning and teaching moments. And of course doing so with the use of humor makes this a very easy read! It was refreshing to read a book that was entertaining while it offered many opportunities for introspection and thought about my own child-rearing methods. Although there are many differences in my family to that of the author's, the underlying values and principles that she uses to parent by are the same pillars that are used in my own (sometimes more successfully than others). I especially like the emphasis on honesty, truthfulness, accountability, and support - all of which are woven in to all the principles outlined and the stories that are told. One particularly insightful part of the book was when the author realizes that she has embraced the role of "nurturer" of her family and the realization that this is not a submissive role, but rather one that requires strength to be able to champion and support all those around her. Loved this insight! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone raising kids!

I'm not a parent, not even close, but this book helped me learn LOTS of things. First off, I must say hats off to the author. Seriously. This book was so funny, it had me literally laughing out loud which didn't work so well for me when I was trying to read quietly on my lunch hour at work. But I digress. This book teaches several principles for a family type that is increasingly common, blended families (You know those families where mom and dad get married and each parent brings in their own kids). With the increased number of divorces the blended family poses challenges all over the place. How to deal with the ex, the new step dad, the new step kids etc etc. Pamela Hutchins uses her own hilarious experiences to teach 34 key principles on child rearing in these circumstances. Each Principle touches on very important areas of parenting on a whole. The book is fun, witty, truthful and above all very informative. The principles are things we all know or seem to forget, so

the book is a timely reminder. It is well written and very well organised (just like Pamela - you'll know what I'm talking about if you read the book ha!) One thing that makes it very useful is that fact that Pamela doesn't just tell us what to do, she shows us how she did it, what worked and what didn't. The stories about her family shows us her human side, where she made mistakes and how she corrected them. I recommend this read for every parent, step-parent, parent to be, parent who does not want to be, parent for a moment and parent by force. In other words, it's for you. If you never interact with kids then read it for the laughs seriously, it's that funny.

As both a stepmother and a therapist, not only did I enjoy reading it, I also appreciated having Pamela's list of blending principles to use with clients. I've had a number of stepmothers talk about how ugly Facebook can get in a stepfamily situation, so I'm glad Pamela's included some contemporary, technology-related principles. And she definitely exemplifies the "Laugh together. A lot" principle. Keeping a sense of humor seems to be paramount in blended family survival.

A very funny and helpful read. Pamela Fagan Hutchins leads you through the day-to-day crazy life of parenting in a blended family. Her book is filled with how- to and how-not-to parent your blended family. Very enjoyable. Another good blended family resource. Blended Family Advice: A step-by-step guide to help blended and step families become strong and successful

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