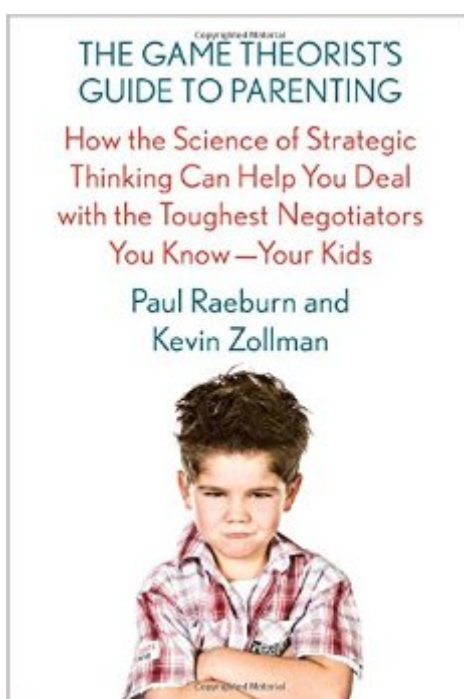


The book was found

The Game Theorist's Guide To Parenting: How The Science Of Strategic Thinking Can Help You Deal With The Toughest Negotiators You Know--Your Kids



Synopsis

I absolutely loved this book, both as a parent and as a nerd. • Jessica Lahey, author of *The Gift of Failure* As every parent knows, kids are surprisingly clever negotiators. But how can we avoid those all-too-familiar wails of "That's not fair!" and "You can't make me!"? In *The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting*, the award-winning journalist and father of five Paul Raeburn and the game theorist Kevin Zollman pair up to highlight tactics from the worlds of economics and business that can help parents break the endless cycle of quarrels and ineffective solutions. Raeburn and Zollman show that some of the same strategies successfully applied to big business deals and politics—such as the Prisoner's Dilemma and the Ultimatum Game—can be used to solve such titanic, age-old parenting problems as dividing up toys, keeping the peace on long car rides, and sticking to homework routines. Raeburn and Zollman open each chapter with a common parenting dilemma. Then they show how carefully concocted schemes involving bargains and fair incentives can save the day. Through smart case studies of game theory in action, Raeburn and Zollman reveal how parents and children devise strategies, where those strategies go wrong, and what we can do to help raise happy and savvy kids while keeping the rest of the family happy too. Delightfully witty, refreshingly irreverent, and just a bit Machiavellian, *The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting* looks past the fads to offer advice you can put into action today.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Scientific American / Farrar, Straus and Giroux (April 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374160015

ISBN-13: 978-0374160012

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.9 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #208,672 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Science & Math > Evolution > Game Theory](#) #1452 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Applied](#) #3279 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting](#)

Customer Reviews

This was so much fun, and I don't even have kids! The book beautifully explains and considers applications (to [co-]parenting) of: 1. Fair division algorithms ("I cut, you choose", adjusted winner,

balanced alternation).2. Auctions (1st & 2nd price, Dutch, and English clock).3. Of course, canonical games (ultimatum, dictator, iterated prisoner's dilemma, and so on).4. A potpourri of game theoretic concepts ([in]credible threats, punishment, reputation, pre-commitment, moral hazard, cheap talk, costly signaling, Zahavi's handicap principle, the tit-for-tat strategy).5. Nash equilibria (nicely, in terms of social conventions à la David Lewis).6. And voting theory (voting rules like plurality and Borda count, and no-go results like Arrow's theorem and the Gibbard-Satterthwaite theorem).The explanations also touch lightly, but thoughtfully, on topics ranging from behavioral economics to the evolution of morality. This is a gem, and it gets my vote for the most enjoyable gift for a game theorist that I've run into yet. ^_^A caveat: I am indeed a game theorist, and while I do think non-game theorists may thoroughly enjoy this book (especially if they're parents) as it's certainly written in a very accessible way, I'm well aware that a good part of my enjoyment in it stems from seeing thoughtful and playful applications of concepts that I happen to be familiar with.

Parenting books are a dime a dozen, most of them written badly and verbosely. Compared to the usual dreck, *The Game Theorist's Guide To Parenting* is a breath of fresh air. It's short, to the point, and of course, uses math. The math seems all correct as far as I can tell.The disappointing thing for me is that I already knew most of what this book covered, including the various auction systems. While they're interesting, the use cases for the various auction technologies available for parenting are really limited, and the examples they provide are really contrived.Where the book pays for itself are the chapters on strategic voting and how voting systems can be gamed. My own kids aren't old enough to play those games yet, but I'm sure that'll happen sooner or later.The book's big problem is that most of the examples are either contrived or would yield to simpler solutions. There's an example of two kids fighting over who gets to play a new video game system first. The answer seems pretty obvious: make them bid with time (i.e., whoever plays first would play for less time), but the book ignores that and uses this example to go into Solomon's adjudication of the two mothers claiming the same baby.Similarly, later on there's an example about a boy who persuades his parents to get a cat, but of course ends up leaving the cat care and training to his parents within a short period of time. The solution should be obvious: getting a cat is an ongoing contract, so extracting a promise up front is useless. You have to design systems where by cat care is incentivized through ongoing penalties. The authors ignore that and get into the Nash equilibrium without ever coming up with a good solution.Having said that, the book is so short that it's still worth a read and who knows, maybe the ideas presented will eventually be useful. Mildly recommended.

Anyone not familiar with game theory but who normally enjoys a good parenting book might still be a little bored by this one. However, if you're like me in that you prefer your non-fiction mixed with a smattering of math and dry economic principles whenever appropriate AND you happen to be a parent of small children, then the Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting could be the book for you. You'll likely discover you employ some of these tactics already, but didn't realize there was a name for it. The authors make an original case for their methods "a modern twist based on centuries-old ideas" and then provide demonstrations using the paradoxical rules of parental negotiation. Even a term like "parental negotiation," for example, usually means the parents' word is the law (Authoritarian), but the authors argue that this approach still has the side effect of child resentment which in turn causes a slew of other unintended consequences. The goal, after all, is to arrive at an elegant and fair solution even though children possess little more than a nonsensical sense of logic and argument. Then again, you might lack the patience for game theory if you're on a road with a car full of hungry kids trying to find a friggin' place to eat.

I can summarize this book in two bullet points: 1. When you make threats, they should be credible. 2. The I cut/you choose strategy for dividing things is handy. Most of the book is variations on these themes, padded out with advice your game-theory-oblivious grandmother could have given you. There's some interesting discussion of auction theory, if you're into that, but the author doesn't make a good case for its utility in childrearing.

This book was very disappointing. It consisted of a college term paper type summary of game theory, with a few incomplete examples of how to apply it to parenting. Nobody will be a better parent as a result of reading this book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting: How the Science of Strategic Thinking Can Help You Deal with the Toughest Negotiators You Know--Your Kids PARENTING: Single Parenting For Moms: A Guide in Raising Your Family and Being a Successful Mom (Parenting, Single Parent, Single Mother, Parenting Boys, Parenting Girls, Raising kids, Healthy child) Positive Parenting: How to talk to your kids so they listen...Your guide to everything you need to know about positive parenting and raising children to ... Positive Discipline, Parenting Books) Parenting: SINGLE PARENTS' BOOK: HOW TO BE THE BEST MOM AND DAD AT THE SAME TIME! 11 RULES ON HOW TO RAISE GREAT KIDS ALONE (Single, Parenting, Parenting Toddlers, Single Parenting) Blended Families: Steps to Help You Succeed in Step-Parenting and Become A Strong Family (Blended Family, Step

Parenting, Parenting-Help) Jokes For Kids - Joke Books : Funny Books : Kids Books : Books for kids age 9 12 : Best Jokes 2016 (kids books, jokes for kids, books for kids 9-12, ... funny jokes, funny jokes for kids) (Volume 1) Self Help: How To Live In The Present Moment (Self help, Self help books, Self help books for women, Anxiety self help, Self help relationships, Present Moment, Be Happy Book 1) Parenting For Single Mothers: Being A Good Mom And Raising Great Kids (Single Parent, Single Mom, Parenting Boys, Parenting Girls) Positive Thinking: How to Eliminate Negative Thinking and Gain Success, Health and Happiness Through Positive Thinking and Self-empowering Affirmations (Positive Thinking Everyday Book 1) Jane Austen, Game Theorist Step Parenting 101: How to Be Successful at Step Parenting and Have a Happy Blended Family Forever (Step Parenting and The Blended Family) Single Mom: The Ultimate Guide to Single Parenting: How to Be Successful at Single Parenting and Raise your Kids Easily (Single Mom Books) The Joy of Game Theory: An Introduction to Strategic Thinking A Kids Book About Bullying: Teach Kids How to Deal With a Bully Jokes:Best Jokes For Kids: Laugh out loud fun jokes(Jokes,Funny Jokes,Jokes for kids,Best Jokes,Funny Book,Jokes free,Jokes for free,for kids,riddles,quiz ... for kids,best jokes,laugh out loud) Jokes for Kids: 400+ Funny Jokes for Kids: Funny and Hilarious Jokes for Kids - Funny Jokes - Kids Jokes - Jokes and Illustrations Game Of Thrones: 10 Most Memorable moments from Game of thrones & 23 Facts about GOT you should Know, 26 Jokes only people who've finished GOT Season 5 Will understand (Game of Thrones Secrets) Emotional Intelligence: Master Your Emotions- Raise Your EQ, Critical Thinking and Optimize Your Life (Emotional Intelligence, Critical thinking, EQ) Raising Confident Kids: 10 Ways to Foster Self-esteem and Avoid Typical Parenting Mistakes (Kids Don't Come With a Manual series) Targeting Autism: What We Know, Don't Know, and Can do to Help Young Children with Autism and Related Disorders

[Dmca](#)