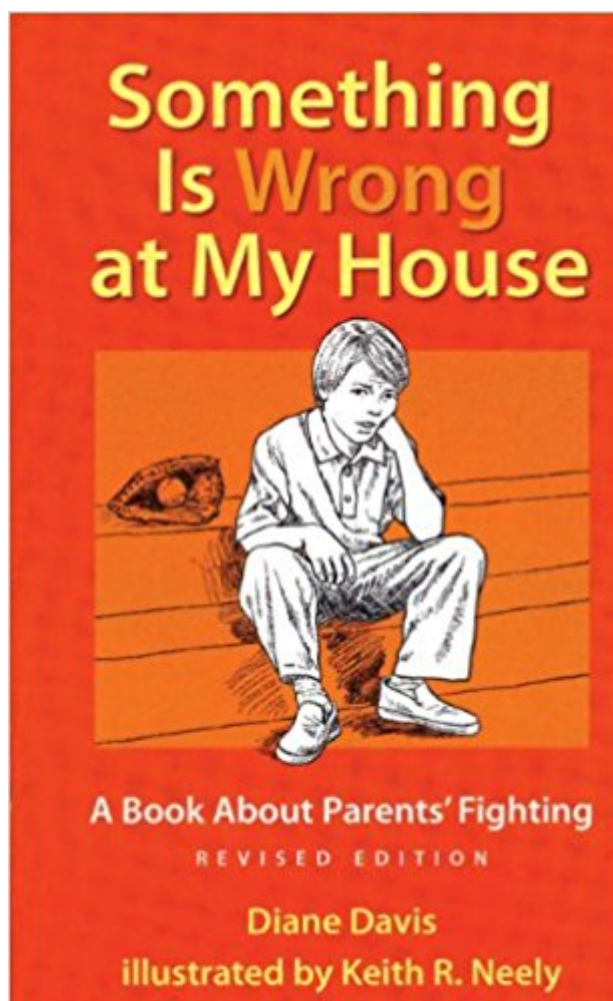


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# Something Is Wrong At My House: A Book About Parents' Fighting



## Synopsis

How can kids understand and cope when their parents fight? Based on a true story, this 32-page book shows a child seeking, and finally obtaining, help in a domestic violence situation. Written so that it can be used with both the very young, and the school-age child, *Something Is Wrong at My House* provides brief text with illustrations on one page of each two-page spread, and more detailed information on the facing page. Ideal for use by school nurses, counselors, social workers and teachers, and by therapists, and the staff in shelters. The first edition of *Something Is Wrong at My House* is available in English with library binding, and in Spanish.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Parenting Press; Revised edition (January 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1884734650

ISBN-13: 978-1884734656

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #441,994 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships](#) #145 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse](#) #1153 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#)

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

An extremely well conceived little paperback that deals with a serious issue...in a format which children can easily comprehend and that offers them solutions....Deals with the child's many conflicting feelings in these situations the anger, the confusion, the fright and self-doubt. However, the best thing about it is...the excellent segment which suggests the various resources the child can turn to... --The Reviewing Librarian Many counselors will find this book to be an effective tool in helping children learn to cope in a violent household...Several students with whom I have used this book have nodded their heads in agreement to many of the character's statements...The pain experienced by the boy is vividly described....Children who live in a violent home will identify with

the problems and learn coping skills from the book's main character --Elementary School Guidance & Counseling I wish every child could have a copy of this book --Family Violence Project, Florence, AL

Diane Davis knows what domestic violence is. Terrified as a child when her parents fought, she hid herself and her younger brother and sister in a bathroom or closet. Like many from violent homes, Davis ended up in a marriage that turned abusive. These grim experiences brought her to membership in a support group for battered women, and that led to *Something Is Wrong at My House*. As a single parent she returned to school, completed a B.A. in human services, a certification program in alcohol studies and then a M.A. in psychology. What I went through as a child and young mother enables me to relate to the trauma that battered women and their children experience, Davis explains, adding that adults often assume or want to believe---that children don't realize what is going on. But many children have told me about the fights they've witnessed. Kids have even described the cycle of violence and predicted when the next beating will take place. The fact that children can be so insightful does not relieve them of fear and emotional pain, she points out. Beyond what children suffer through domestic violence is what they learn, says Davis. Children are like understudies in a play, watching and learning from their parents. I have seen first-hand how children mimic the violence they have seen at home. It becomes learned behavior. Making Davis more sensitive to the lifelong risks of family violence was her graduate school internship at a psychiatric hospital and volunteer work at a women's shelter. Davis's volunteer work in agencies such as Seattle's New Beginnings shelter for battered women and their children and the comments of professionals using the book have also made her aware of how important it is that children be able to talk about the violence they have experienced. Children are ashamed of what is happening in their homes, but they'll start talking once they realize other children have gone through the same experiences. It's also vital, she emphasizes, that children be assured that they are not to blame for the violence. That's something kids often assume. *Something Is Wrong at My House* created a career for Davis in abuse prevention and treatment, and it led to such later publications as *Working with Children from Violent Homes* and *Stop It, Now! A Guide for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment for Elementary School Children*. Her coaching and consulting practice covers special needs, chemical dependency, positive communication, and positive parenting as well as domestic violence, anger management, grief and loss in children and reporting child abuse. Davis has also worked on sexual abuse prevention curricula and a video that prepares parents to respond to disclosures of sexual abuse. Through assignments with Child Care Resources & Referral of King

County, Seattle and Bellevue Public Schools, Puget Sound and Olympic Educational Service Districts, School's Out Washington, the City of Seattle's WIC program for low-income mothers and the Child Protective Services unit of Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Davis has worked with both educators and parents as a trainer and counselor, providing prevention, early intervention and parenting programs. In early 2010 she began a series of webinars for the Washington State Head Start/ECEAP Association on such topics as: \* Understanding Autism\* Understanding Sensory Integration Disorder\* Working with Children with Fetal Alcohol Disorder\* Working with High-Risk Children\* Managing Behaviors in Children with Special Needs An adjunct faculty member at Bellevue (WA) College and the Seattle Community College District, Davis is a Seattle native and today lives in West Seattle. She is a graduate of Highline High School and Antioch University.

I read this book to my five year old grandson. It really did not keep his interest. I wasn't crazy about the illustrations of the mother being slapped. I bought it because I know in the past, my grandson has witnessed his dad hitting his mom. However, it has been a long time. It gives tips on how to tell if you have domestic violence in the home. It lets the children know that it is not their fault. There are some good self esteem lines for the child in here. I would not recommend this book for little children. With that being sad, it is good for older children.

When the boy first mentions the abusive behavior to an adult, that person does not respond concerned or help him. He then goes to another trusted adult and is helped that time. I love that it shows children must keep talking about it and not take it personal when the adult does not respond appropriately.

This book is okay. I like how it includes a safety plan at the end of the book, but I still ended up printing out my own to use.

I've used it repeatedly with the children in therapy who live with trauma.. I will read the story then let the color pages.

The drawings in this book are kind of boring, plain black and white. And, on one page, it depicts a man slapping a woman while the kid looks on - while I know this is a reality for some kids, I didn't feel the picture was appropriate.

"Something Is Wrong at My House: A Book About Parents' Fighting" is a book especially written for school age (and also adapted for preschool age) children to help break the generational cycle of domestic abuse. It is based on a true story of a boy who lived in a violent household. Written in simple terms that can easily be understood, "Something is Wrong at My House" addresses and describes the effects of domestic abuse in terms of a child's feelings and reactions. There are specific suggestions for what the child can do to deal with their own chaotic feelings to avoid violence and a Safety Plan development suggestion so that the child can take appropriate steps to protect himself and siblings when the violence is too threatening. The book's format is such that each set of pages presents similar information for an older child or for a preschool-aged child. It ends with suggestions for adults to contact for help and some positive steps a child can take plus affirmations: "I am a very special, lovable person. My needs are important. I deserve to be safe and happy and so do you!" "Something Is Wrong at My House" is an excellent resource for children in families at risk and those who work with them or are close to them. Also recommended by the same publisher is "Where is My Mommy?: Coping When a Parent Leaves (And Doesn't Come Back)," by Mary Kilgore and Mitchell Kilgore, illustrated by Cary Pillo.

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