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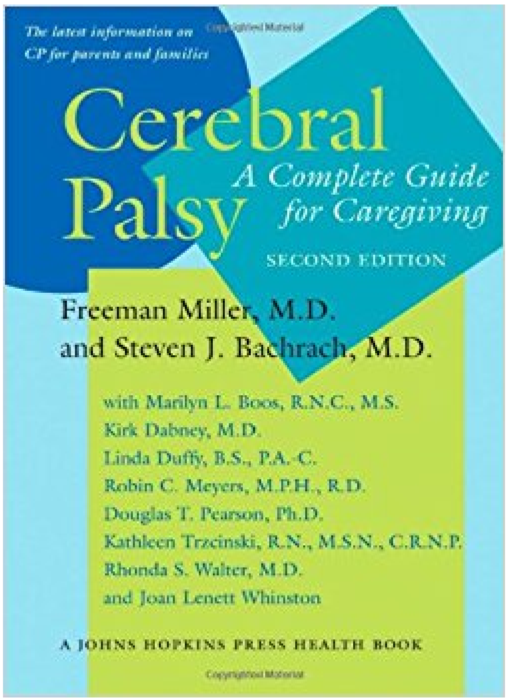

The latest information on CP for parents and families

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Cerebral Palsy

A Complete Guide for Caregiving

SECOND EDITION

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Synopsis

When a child has a health problem, parents want answers. But when a child has cerebral palsy, the answers don’t come quickly. A diagnosis of this complex group of chronic conditions affecting movement and coordination is difficult to make and is typically delayed until the child is eighteen months old. Although the condition may be mild or severe, even general predictions about long-term prognosis seldom come before the child’s second birthday. Written by a team of experts associated with the Cerebral Palsy Program at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, this authoritative resource provides parents and families with vital information that can help them cope with uncertainty. Thoroughly updated and revised to incorporate the latest medical advances, the second edition is a comprehensive guide to cerebral palsy. The book is organized into three parts. In the first, the authors describe specific patterns of involvement (hemiplegia, diplegia, quadriplegia), explain the medical and psychosocial implications of these conditions, and tell parents how to be effective advocates for their child. In the second part, the authors provide a wealth of practical advice about caregiving from nutrition to mobility. Part three features an extensive alphabetically arranged encyclopedia that defines and describes medical terms and diagnoses, medical and surgical procedures, and orthopedic and other assistive devices. Also included are lists of resources and recommended reading.

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Customer Reviews

"A ’must’ for any family struggling with CP care... The wealth of details are organized logically and parents will find it easy to navigate, making it an item of choice above others." (Bookwatch)"This book is well structured, easy to read, and gives answers to all questions related to the management of children and adults with CP." (European Journal of Pediatrics)

"Sound professional advice and a caring commitment to work with you to do what’s best for your child -- that’s what anyone who is the parent of a child with cerebral palsy wants. And that’s what Drs. Miller and Bachrach and their colleagues offer in this book... They will show you on every page that they understand, at least a little bit, what it’s like to be the parent of a child with cerebral palsy. Perhaps most importantly, they will do all this because they care so much about the children." -- Joan Lenett Whinston, author of I’m Joshua & "Yes I Can" --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This review gives a brief overview on caring for a child with diplegia from birth to 18 years of age. Overall I think this is a great book. The question and answer style makes it very easy for anyone to understand. It goes into a lot of detail about cerebral palsy and how to care for a child with it.Parts of the book:Part I Cerebral Palsy HandbookThis section gives an overview of the basics of cerebral palsy including the definition of it. It also talks about the medical problems associated with cerebral palsy and the development problems a child with cerebral palsy may have growing up. It then goes into detail about hemiplegia, diplegia, and quadriplegia and the differences between them. It also says how to care for a child with each of these diseases at the different stages of his/her life. The book then goes into detail about the different aspects of your child’s life, including healthcare, education, and legal and how the parent should approach each one.Part II Caregiving TechniquesThis section focuses on caregiving and specific techniques. It includes seating, wheelchair use, braces, casts, shoes, feeding, taking medicine, and many other techniques that may come up while caring for a child with cerebral palsy.Style and StructureThe book is set up as a question and answer style. It breaks up basic caregiving by the child’s age: birth to one year, one to three, four to six, seven to twelve, and thirteen to eighteen. Each age group answers different questions that usually come up during a child’s development at that age period.Outline of Specific Parts of the BooksDiplegiaThis section gives a good introduction of diplegia, saying what it is, what the symptoms look like in a child, and the degrees of severity. The majority of children with diplegia usually attends regular schools and become independent functioning adults.Birth to One Year"This first year sees the development of many milestones, such as head control, reaching out for a toy, sitting, starting to vocalize sounds, and finger feeding." This is a good section on whether it is possible to diagnose diplegia this early. Most parents want their children to excel very fast buy there is a wide range of development time for premature babies so it’s very hard to diagnose cerebral palsy this early. The most common symptom of a child with diplegia is stiff lower extremities. This should be able to be seen by the six month mark which means he or she does not have severe diplegia.Age One to Three"This is the age at which the characteristics of diplegia become more noticeable, mainly because, unlike other children at this age, the child with diplegia is not walking." This is a good section about indications that your child may have diplegia. It stresses the importance of a specialized school environment so the child can participate in physical therapy and learn social skills. It also stresses that a parent should not force the child to sit, crawl, or walk a certain way. Let the child do what’s comfortable for them and allow the therapist to correct this problem.Age Four to Six"This is the age range at which the child with diplegia makes the most significant physical improvement in motor function." This is a great section about walking and what to do if a child is not walking yet. During this time period the child makes major improvements in motor function. He/She should be in a regular school and focus on cognitive issues not therapy. A child using a walking aid for mobility to move around with the other children is not a bad thing. If a child is not walking yet, then this is usually caused by a problem in balance, muscle coordination, spasticity, or leg alignment. Each of these reasons should be looked into closely so the problem can be addressed and fixed.Age Seven to Twelve"By the time a child reaches this age, the rate of physical improvement has leveled off in areas such as balance and coordination, and it’s a good idea to refocus the child’s attention away from additional physical improvement and toward intellectual learning." This is a good section on when a child should stop physical therapy and do more outdoor or social exercises such as sports and adaptive P.E. usually by age 8-10 a child has reached maximum walking ability. This will usually decrease a little when a child hits puberty and gains height and weight because walking becomes harder during this changing period. Any significant problems in walking should be addressed with surgery at this stage.Age 13 - 18"During this time period of a child’s development, a major issue is separating from the family." This is a great section for parents on how to cope with their child growing up and give them more freedom. Parents should let their child have some freedom and be independent. This is a good section on how to let your child make decisions on his/her own and learn from them. It also says how to compromise and let the child make smaller decisions so they feel important. Parents should also understand that their child may regress some from increase in height and weight.Summary of OpinionsOverall this is an excellent book on caregiving for a child with cerebral palsy. It is broken up well into different age categories and addresses major issues such as walking (using braces, crutches, wheelchair), surgery, schooling, and therapy. It also talks about healthcare and how often checkups should occur. It goes into good detail about the problems your child will face and how to handle them.After reading this book, I would feel comfortable taking care of a child with cerebral palsy. It helps you not to panic because nothing you see your child struggle with will be out of the ordinary. It also does a good job of breaking up the different forms of plegia (hemiplegia, diplegia, and quadriplegia) and the differences between them.RecommendationI would recommend this book to any parent raising a child with cerebral palsy. It is very easy to read and does a nice job breaking up the major aspects of a child’s life: school, healthcare, walking, and therapy. The question and answer format allows the reader to look at the common questions about raising a child with cerebral palsy and can skip over areas if they wish.

Extremely valuable for parents and professional as well

Great book. Covers all of the basics. A must for any parent with a CP kid.

I actually own the soft cover version of this book. My son has Cerebral Palsy and this book was initially recommended to us by one of his specialists not long after he was diagnosed. I absolutely LOVE this book! We purchased a Kindle thru for our son for Christmas this year. He loves books and loves being read to. So it was the perfect gift. I added this book to the Kindle library so that his one-on-one nurse aide can reference it for any questions or curiosities she has. It has a little bit of everything in it. From what to expect with the various severities, ages & developments as your child grows from birth - grief. It covers a little bit of marital & sibling issues that may arise as well. There’s a section at the end with lists of medical terms & definitions. Also tells you what pages each of these items is discussed on. Then there’s a reference section in the back of agencies, books, etc with addresses & phone numbers & then in more detail by state for those agencies etc that are specific in each state. I recommend this book to every parent with a child that has Cerebral Palsy. Even if you’re not very medically knowledgeable this is a good buy. It’ll help you become more educated on issues that you already are or will be dealing with soon.

I really am glad to have this book. A friend had lent it to me and I wanted to get a copy of my own. It is one of those books that you will want to reffer to again and again as your child grows. It has the types of cp; hemiplegic, diplegic, and quadraplegic. I especialy recomend this book to people who have kids who have hemiplegia, because it is hard to find cp books that have specific info on hemiplegia. It is well organized and easy to find info in. The sections have an introduction so you know you are looking the right place. For example, in the intro to the diplegia section it says soemthing like, if your child cannot make transitions on their own (ex.from bed to wheel chair) then you will find more relevent information in the quadraplegia section. I definaty recomend it if you are new to your childs diagnosis of cp. It also has info on AFOs, surgery and hospitaliations, feeding tubes, hearing and vision problems, intelectual disabilities, etc. Some of the language is outdated though, for example I belive it uses the term mentaly retarded.

I bought this book used and it looked brand new. No marks, folds. We haven't read the book yet but after looking thru I can see it is going to be very easy to read and understand. Dr. Miller is my grandson's Dr. he is AWESOME. We had another and after a year of being told there wasn't anything wrong we switch to Dr. Miller. He has done surgery on our grandson and now he walks with both feet on the ground.As far as the book it arrived very quickly.

I have an 18 month old with CP and boy do I love this book! It has given me the most concrete information about my son's condition to date. If you have personal experience with CP you know that there is no set timeline for progress - each child is unique in his or her CP experience. This book enabled me to envision a timeline for my son's progress for the first time. It has given me hope and is an excellent resource.This book is organized in a way that gave me the information I wanted to know first, right at the beginning. I didn't have to search around for it. The authors have great sensitivity to and understanding of families dealing with CP. They manage to be empathic in their writing while delivering technical information. The book concludes with an incredibly useful "Cerebral Palsy Encyclopedia" which is a must have for any one with a child who has CP.If you have a child with CP or work with families with children with CP, get this book!

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