

Raising Kids raises spirits

BY ANNA BOROWIECKI
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When I was a stay-at-home mom with two preschool children, life was hectic. My bathroom became a peaceful refuge, a private reading room where I could skim articles in short bursts before someone banged on the door shouting, "Mom, are you in there?"

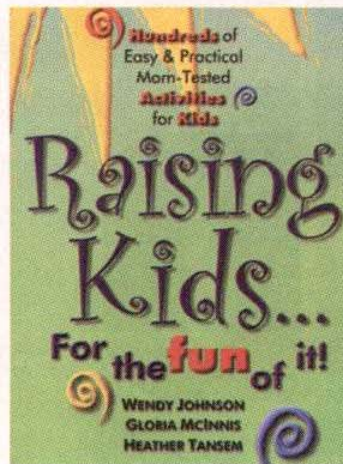
Any parent of young children who has difficulty finding three minutes to themselves will appreciate *Raising Kids...For the fun of it!* It's packed with hundreds of fun, practical mom-tested activities displayed in a humorous, easy-to-read layout.

Authors Gloria McInnis, Wendy Johnson and Heather Tansem are similar to the *Best of Bridge* cookbook crowd in Calgary. The 216-page read is divided into the four seasons. Each season has six well-organized categories that feature family fun, party time, discussions, positive parenting, learning and organized living.

The array of tips for both parents and children is vast and a solid testament to the amount of thought given to everyone's needs. There's everything from creating crafts and camping tips to kid's cooking and handling the allowance issue.

The 32-page section on Christmas is particularly appropriate at this time of year. They touch on just about every seasonal need from hosting a dinner party and gift ideas to carolling, Christmas jokes and making a gingerbread house from scratch.

What really gives the book a zesty flair and makes it a fun read is the open layout. Each page starts with an eye-catching headline and a short introductory paragraph no more than three or four lines long. Punchy tips and suggestions are earmarked with bullets and every page is



BOOK REVIEW

Raising Kids ... For the fun of it!

By Wendy Johnson, Gloria McInnis and Heather Tansem

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sprinkled with cartoons and graphics.

The three writers add intimacy to the pages by recounting their children's hi-jinks and personal experiences, often with entertaining follow-ups.

About the only thing I questioned was whether young kids would eat guacamole and tortilla chips or spinach pasta with pesto sauce for a St. Patrick's Day dinner.

However, the book is loaded with leprechaun tricks, an arsenal that every parent would do well to have at their disposal. And the well-structured index provides an effortless search.

Raising Kids is available at St. Albert Chapters.

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