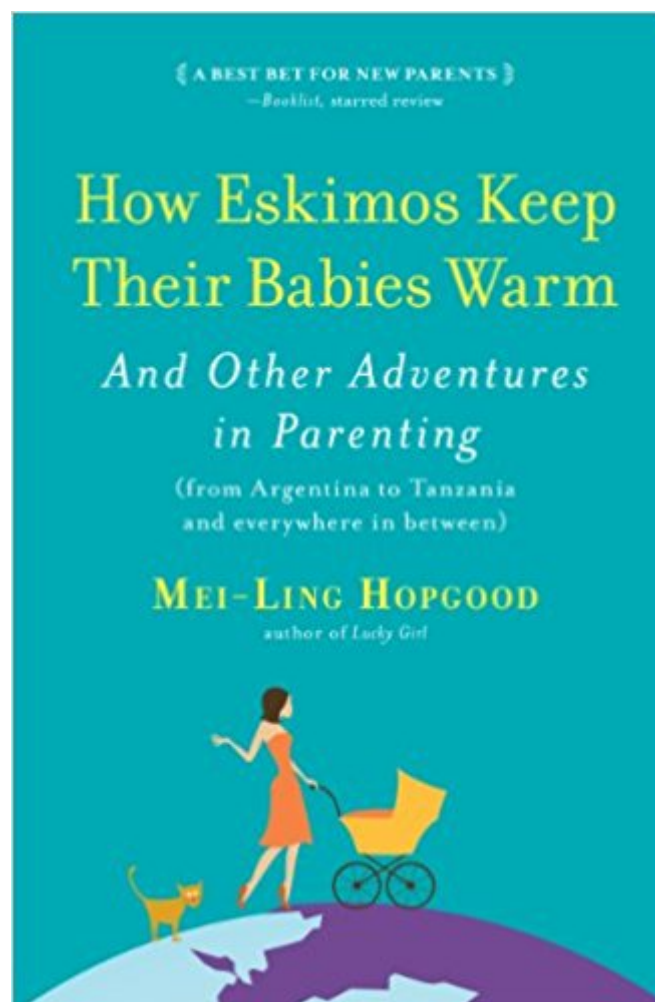




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# How Eskimos Keep Their Babies Warm: And Other Adventures In Parenting (from Argentina To Tanzania And Everywhere In Between)





## Synopsis

A tour of global practices that will inspire American parents to expand their horizons (and geographical borders) and learn that there's more than one way to diaper a baby. Mei-Ling Hopgood, a first-time mom from suburban Michigan •now living in Buenos Aires• was shocked that Argentine parents allow their children to stay up until all hours of the night. Could there really be social and developmental advantages to this custom? Driven by a journalist's curiosity and a new mother's desperation for answers, Hopgood embarked on a journey to learn how other cultures approach the challenges all parents face: bedtimes, potty training, feeding, teaching, and more. Observing parents around the globe and interviewing anthropologists, educators, and child-care experts, she discovered a world of new ideas. The Chinese excel at potty training, teaching their wee ones as young as six months old. Kenyans wear their babies in colorful cloth slings •not only is it part of their cultural heritage, but strollers seem outright silly on Nairobi's chaotic sidewalks. And the French are experts at turning their babies into healthy, adventurous eaters. Hopgood tested her discoveries on her spirited toddler, Sofia, with some enlightening results. This intimate and surprising look at the ways other cultures raise children offers parents the option of experimenting with tried and true methods from around the world and shows that there are many ways to be a good parent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The book is breezy and entertaining and Hopgood is charmingly self-deprecating about her own

mothering of the formidable Sofia, who emerges as a sassy character in her own right."â "Boston Globe"A pleasure to read . . . No doubt some details will be too enticing not to try, like recruiting the whole family for meal preparation and training young children to take responsibility for simple tasks. Ultimately, this absorbing assemblage of perspectives will help widen our own."

â "BookPage"Throughout her carefully organized text, [Hopgood] shows enormous respect for everyone she speaks with and everything she learns... A best bet for new parents.â •â "Booklist starred review"Hopgoodâ™s text is a satisfying mix of research, observation, interview, and personal experience... Readers will laugh, marvel and muse over the many (frequently opposing) child-rearing methods that persist despite the growing globalization of parenthood.â •â "Publishers Weekly

Mei-Ling Hopgood is an award-winning journalist and writer. She lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with her husband and two daughters. Find her online at [www.meilinghopgood.com](http://www.meilinghopgood.com).

Since I'm a child psychologist, I found myself intrigued by this book after I heard some interviews with the author on the radio. I also travel a good deal, and I'm continually struck by cross-cultural differences in child rearing, the freedom (versus not) allocated to young children, and parent-child interactions. On my recent trips to Spain, for example, I saw very few kids or teens who were 'hooked up' to some kind of apparatus, be it an I-pod, hand-held game, or cellphone. The love and affection between children of both sexes and their fathers is also admirable; so sad that we see little of that here (especially between parents of school-age kids or teens). In our own culture, a good number of parents get overly-invested in 'doing it right.' While this is a concern to parents universally, we have such little support for parents--societal and familial--that it's no wonder their anxiety is so high. Parents contact me all the time, asking for books/references on how best to raise their child, fearing that one woops will damage the kid for life. I usually tell them to read one book on attachment; one on basic child development; and then to forget about the books and get on with the task of parenting. Though none of us are surprised to learn that there are cross-cultural differences in raising kids, this book helps to illuminate the notions in starking and sometimes surprising detail. What is a way of life in one culture, for example, might warrant a report to child protective services in our own. In addition to the stories of different cultural perspectives on parenting, the book has a way of pulling the reader in, begging us to take a look at how we were raised, as well as how cultural influences in our past affected our grandparents and parents. This book will certainly appeal to parents, but those interested in expanding their world view will also derive a lot of information and

thought from it. It's a well-written, well-paced book.

What a pleasant way to learn some strange and exotic, yet very useful things. Don't be deceived by the apparently whimsical title of this book--found at .com--which reveals how very differently parents in other cultures approach parenthood and child-rearing. The author, Mei-Ling Hopgood, shares what she has learned from her travels and informal conversations with young parents in Argentina, Tanzania, and other remote places, as well as from probing discussions with a number of experts on child development, psychologists, sociologists, etc. Her style is casual and breezy. Reading this delightful mind-expanding book is like having a cozy visit with a friend over a cup of tea. Whether or not you have ever been a parent, you will find this a thoroughly provocative, engaging and enjoyable read. Regina C.

My own adventures in parenting are long over ... even my adventures of a different sort in grand-parenting ... but I bought and read this book mainly because I admire Mei-Ling Hopgood's first book, LUCKY GIRL. This book is also very well written, and researched to the nth degree. It is fascinating that the world has become small enough that we can know the parenting styles and secrets of so many different cultures around the world, and, moreover, can learn from all of them. When I was raising my children in California in the 1960s and '70s the only teachers available to us were our mothers, our neighbors and Good Housekeeping, Ladies Home Journal, McCall's, et al. Basically, all those sources were in agreement with very little variety or differences among them. Conformity was all. Somehow we muddled through it, but I for one would have enjoyed knowing there were many options as obviously there have always been. Mei-Ling Hopgood is a delightful and easy-to-read author and she has traveled the world both in person and via her computer, learning much along the way, and sharing it with her readers. This is a great book for new parents and for other readers like myself who have an interest in other parts of this large world of ours.

Completely unpretentious, this book is my most favorite parenting book that I have read. It was exactly what I was looking for - an understanding of how parenting is done in other parts of the world. I see many downsides to the way parenting has evolved in the US and wanted to learn another perspective. I recommend this book to all new parents and will probably reference this book as I continue my journey in parenting with my first born.

This book is engaging and the subject matter is super interesting. I loved reading about parenting in

different cultures--every chapter was compelling.

I admit that I am not a big reader. I watch the movie before the book comes out. But I love this book. It is full of all sorts of interesting facts about parenting and raising children all over the world. The author, Hopgood, isn't afraid to bringing her personal life into the book which helps in making it relatable. I really enjoyed learning about how other cultures treat pregnancy, children, raising children as well as the cultural differences in eating, sleeping and other topics. The book is eye opening to the fact that the American norms are not always the best route in caring for children and families and I think if more people read this book they would seriously rethink the way we feed out children, how we expect our children to sleep and the level of independence we strive for in our children as well as why we as Americans work this way.

Truthfully, I'm finding it a little hard to get through her choppy style of writing. I like the idea of looking into other cultures ways of parenting, mostly for fun, but I'm tired of the undercurrent message I see everywhere that everyone else on this planet has parenting figured except the poor old Americans. We've got plenty to admire as well, and if this book were to be balanced there would be a chapter on something unique to American parenting that everyone can admire. But if I ignore these two drawbacks, overall this is an interesting read.

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