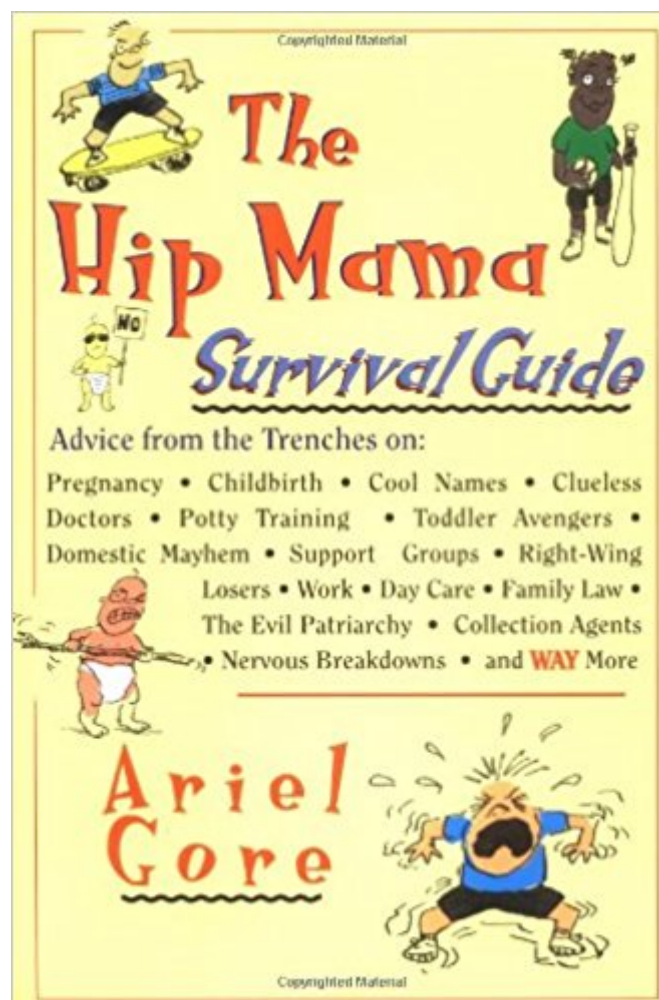


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# The Hip Mama Survival Guide: Advice From The Trenches On Pregnancy, Childbirth, Cool Names, Clueless Doctors, Potty Training, And Toddler Avengers





## Synopsis

"The Gen-X Dr. Spock" and the founder of Hip Mama: The Parenting 'Zine gives readers advice from the trenches on pregnancy, childbirth, cool names, clueless doctors, potty training, domestic mayhem, right-wing losers, the evil patriarchy, nervous breakdowns, and way more. Line drawings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Can a mother nurse after nipple piercing? Is it okay to name a child after a beverage? What's the best music to divorce by? Ariel Gore answers these and other tough questions in her hilarious and highly informative guide to pregnancy and early parenting, *The Hip Mama Survival Guide*. Gore gave birth to her daughter, Maia, at age 19, raised her on welfare while getting a college degree, and went on to create her own zine and Web site (and now, a parenting guide) devoted to non-nuclear-family moms everywhere. Gore's book uses straight-from-the-trenches experience, friendly encouragement, and a hearty dose of humor while covering the basics for mamas who may not have the comforts or privileges (like generous health insurance or state-of-the-art strollers) many traditional baby-care manuals presume to be accessible. Chapters include "Childbirth Sucks," "Beauty and the Gender Beast," "Poverty Without Despair," and "Guerrilla Mothering," and cover topics as diverse as nutrition, trimester development, circumcision, custody battles, domestic violence, co-parenting, political activism, working moms, and nervous breakdowns. Gore does not hide her feisty, liberal political bent, and she devotes a whole section to skewering the conservative right's vision of "family values." Each chapter ends with interview answers and advice from "rebel

moms," ranging from Gore's friends to famous feminists like Mary Kay Blakely and Susie Bright. While Gore's advice may ring especially true for young single moms, her funny, realistic approach to mothering will show mamas of all races, ages, and means that hipness is well within their reach.

--Brangien Davis

Ariel Gore is the founder and publisher of Hip Mama, a parenting zine with attitude. She regularly lectures on the culture and politics of motherhood, and she has appeared on CNN, MTV, CBC Evening News, and NPR. She and her daughter Maia live in Oakland, California.

Bleah. Narrow-minded, holier-than-thou assertions about what's best for your baby. Not so much "hip mama" as "self-righteous" mama. I read this before my first child was born, and immediately felt inadequate; after she was born I learned what most experienced moms already know - no one can predict your situation or how to best handle it ahead of time. First time mothers beware, do what's best for your baby and you, not what a "one-size-fits-all" self-help book says.

I'm sure this book's very useful for mamas living in dire financial conditions, but as for me, most of the advice the book has to offer was irrelevant. I hope I'll never get to a situation when returning an old used sweater to the store will seem like the only way to get some cash. (Not to mention the fact that where I live, you will never ever get money back for a returned item from a store. :) )As for the style of writing, I found the book mildly entertaining at first, refreshing even - but then it just went on and on and I soon found myself bored.

This book is a nessassary for the new mom!!

This book is informational and REALLY funny. I have given it to several pregnant friends who have loved it.

I'm not a parent yet but working on it. Although my current situation is pretty mainstream (married and middle class) I have no intention of parenting traditionally. I really appreciated this book because I grew up in a non-traditional family, and it is nice to see other configurations of "family" acknowledged. Also the book was just plain fun!

Ariel Gore founded a website to go with her book. I found the website when I was pregnant, and

frightened. The "you can do it" and "You don't need a stroller" saved me. I am Christian, conservative, Republican, married, and in my thirties. We lived, at the time, surrounded by single mothers with careers. Ironically, I was the most hippy amongst them. Ariel Gore, her reassurance, her sense of entitlement to things like- you know- food- and education- kept me alive in the midst of the most horrifying Post- partum depression. Being married to an employed man doesn't mean the cupboard isn't mighty thin at the middle of the month. Being committed to your child, no matter what, to your principles, no matter what, to your friends--that's what I learned from Ariel Gore. I keep buying copies of this book, and keep giving them away, to mothers struck, and frightened, in the midst of fear, divorce, spousal death, unemployment.....two thumbs, and two big toes, up. two

After reading several pregnancy books that assumed I was living in the comfortable middle class with an eager & helpful dad-to-be and a desire to be the most Western mother on the planet, I found it really refreshing to read Ms Gore's survival guide. Her advice ranges from the Basic Layette (and I mean basic, for those of us on limited income) to How to Make a Quick \$20 (garage sales, palm reading...). I knew, by the end of the book, that the author's trenches were not unlike my own. Still, it left me hanging in a few areas--but that's where other books can help, as no pregnancy/childbirth book can cover it all. Her disclaimer in the introduction mentions just that: not wanting to duplicate what your everyday pregnancy book can cover, she addresses issues that the other books don't touch. As part of a small pregnancy/childbirth library, this book is essential for single moms or those with alternative arrangements. On its own, it's great for support, and is somewhat practical. It made me want to subscribe to Ms Gore's Hip Mama magazine, just for the community of it.

I loved this book. I practiced birth control during my teens and 20s and my former husband practiced it for me in my 30s. Now, at 37, I'm seriously considering the fact that I'm not going to have a Family -- I'm going to have a child, probably by myself. Do I feel regret having put pursuit of \$\$\$\$ ahead of my fertility? Hell yes! Books like this just go to show that you can make it, even when making it doesn't look like a Vogue ad. I don't have piercings or what have you, but knowing there's someone who hasn't been completely brainwashed by modern capitalist culture is a help. As Martha says, it's a good thing.

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