

(Download ebook) Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow Into Troublesome Gaps -- And What We Can Do About It

## Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow Into Troublesome Gaps -- And What We Can Do About It

Lise Eliot

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"Eye-opening . . . A masterful new book on gender and the brain." —Washington Post

How Small Differences Grow  
into Troublesome Gaps —  
and What We Can Do About It

PINK BRAIN  
BLUE BRAIN



LISE ELIOT, Ph.D.

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**Lise Eliot : Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow Into Troublesome Gaps -- And What We Can Do About It** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow Into Troublesome Gaps -- And What We Can Do About It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read about genderBy JDAAn interesting read about the

differences in gender. It's a definite conversation starter. I recommend this for readers who want to explore this topic further. Eliot gives practical suggestions for teaching each gender which, in my experience, sometimes holds true. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good and balanced writing By Sarits I really enjoyed reading this book! very well written and has an overall "calmed down" approach. Every chapter has a "tip" section, which at first I was thinking was annoying, but later, come to appreciate (and actually got convinced on some points). Unlike many popular science books that have a dumb-down approach, telling us a study is significant and that's it, she actually bothers to tell us how much significant. I find this extremely important. The overall message can be summed up in a sentence from the book (paraphrasing): "it's not women from venus man from mars, it's women from north dakota, man from south dakota" 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. pink blue is little murky By Joel L. Keelan Clearly Dr. Eliot wants to add more light and subtract some heat from the ever popular issues of gender differences, and she clearly wants what is best for birth sexes, and is not counting up the wrongs committed against one gender or the other. On the other hand I think she has two visions before her and they don't combine well. On the one hand she used the analogy whereby she compared to gender socialization to learning different languages, and then a few pages later points out the huge overlap on psychological tests and experiments where boys and girls are tested. She seems to be saying that socialization has this large effect making boys and girls really different, but on the other hand they are really not that different. It is my impression that this does not create insurmountable cognitive dissonance because she places the not that different into the nature basket, and the boys and girls speak different languages into the nurture basket, and somehow the same critical mind she brings to nature, has a kind of double standard when reviewing the nurture studies. I think her approach struggles with understanding the misery of children raised contrary to their brain sex if socialization was as nearly all powerful as she suggests. I am no expert in this area but was surprised to find a simple search uncovered a number of articles on the differences between the corpus callosum in neonates, and Dr. Eliot was quite emphatic that such differences could not be found.

A precise scientific exploration of the differences between boys and girls that breaks down damaging gender stereotypes and offers practical guidance for parents and educators. In the past decade, we've come to accept certain ideas about the differences between males and females that boys can't focus in a classroom, for instance, and that girls are obsessed with relationships. In *Pink Brain, Blue Brain*, neuroscientist Lise Eliot turns that thinking on its head. Calling on years of exhaustive research and her own work in the field of neuroplasticity, Eliot argues that infant brains are so malleable that small differences at birth become amplified over time, as parents and teachers and the culture at large unwittingly reinforce gender stereotypes. Children themselves intensify the differences by playing to their modest strengths. They constantly exercise those ball-throwing or doll-cuddling circuits, rarely straying from their comfort zones. But this, says Eliot, is just what they need to do, and she offers parents and teachers concrete ways to help. Boys are not, in fact, better at math but at certain kinds of spatial reasoning. Girls are not naturally more empathetic; they're allowed to express their feelings. By appreciating how sex differences emerge rather than assuming them to be fixed biological facts we can help all children reach their fullest potential, close the troubling gaps between boys and girls, and ultimately end the gender wars that currently divide us.

From Publishers Weekly Professor of neuroscience at Rosalind Franklin University, Eliot (*What's Going On in There?*) offers a refreshingly reasonable and reassuring look at recent alarming studies about sex differences in determining the behavior of children. Her levelheaded approach recognizes assertions by the nature versus nurture advocates such as Michael Gurian, Leonard Sax, Louann Brizendine, e.g., boys lag behind girls in early development, are more risk taking and spatially adept, while girls are hardwired for verbal communication and feeling empathy yet underscores how small the differences really are and what parents can do to resist the harmful stereotyping that grows more entrenched over time. Eliot revisits much of the data showing subtle differences in boy-girl sensory processing, memory and language circuits, brain functioning, and neural speed and efficiency, using clever charts and graphs of her own. However, she emphasizes most convincingly that the brain is marvelously plastic and can remodel itself continually to new experiences, meaning that the child comes into the world with its genetic makeup, but actually growing a boy from those XY cells or a girl from XX cells requires constant interaction with the environment. At the end of each chapter, she lists ways to nip early troubles in the bud, e.g., for boys, language and literacy enrichment; for girls, stimulating movement, visual and spatial awareness. Dense, scholarly but accessible, Eliot's work demonstrates a remarkable clarity of purpose. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Lise Eliot nimbly refutes the overemphasis on sex differences that has dominated popular thinking in our Mars and Venus age--but without resorting to a facile denial of differences, either. This is a lively, marvelously clear and readable book that combines all the latest research on sex differences with smart, sensible and humane advice to parents on how bring out the fullest potential in both boys and girls. Margaret Talbot, Staff Writer, *The New Yorker* I wish that *Pink Brain, Blue Brain* had been available when my children were small. Its smart about our biology, smart about our culture and genuinely thought-provoking in considering the way the two intersect. Read it if you're a parent seeking some savvy insight on child rearing, as a teacher looking to help students or just read it for the pleasure of

understanding yourself a little better. Deborah Blum, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Sex on the Brain: The Biological Differences Between Men and Women* Lise Eliot surveys the real science of sex differences in a way that is clear and careful as well as entertaining, and her advice on everything from public policy to parenting is sensible and scientifically grounded. Mark Liberman, University of Pennsylvania Lise Eliot covers a wealth of the best scientific work on gender in an accessible and engaging style. The suggestions she offers for raising and teaching children are well grounded in research and readily implemented in practice. *Pink Brain, Blue Brain* is an excellent resource for parents, educators, and anyone else interested in how boys and girls develop. Lynn S. Liben, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Penn State University I cant stop talking about *Pink Brain, Blue Brain*. Every time I see a toddler on a playground, or walk into a toy store, I remember some remarkable new fact I learned from Lise Eliot. This book will change the way you think about boys, girls, and how we come to be who we are. Jonah Lehrer, author of *How We Decide* and *Proust Was a Neuroscientist* [a] sharp, information-packed, and wonderfully readable book *Mother Jones* This is an important book and highly recommended for parents, teachers, and anyone who works with children. *Library Journal* (a) refreshingly reasonable and reassuring look at recent alarming studies about sex differences in determining the behavior of children.... Eliot's work demonstrates a remarkable clarity of purpose. *Publishers Weekly* Read [this] masterful book and you'll never view the sex-differences debate the same way again. *Newsweek* eye-opening... [a] masterful new book on gender and the brain... Eliot's contribution in *Pink Brain, Blue Brain* is to explain, clearly and authoritatively, what the research on brain-based sex difference actually shows, and to offer helpful suggestions about how we can erase the small gaps for our children instead of turning them into larger ones. *Washington Post* refreshingly evenhanded... Written in a readable style and organized in chapters ordered by age level, this makes some scientific concepts about brain development accessible to laypeople... Anyone interested in child development and gender studies will be enlightened. *Booklist* "Considering the nonsense already in print (much of it erroneously presented as scientific fact), *Pink Brain, Blue Brain* should be required reading for anyone who wants a more thoughtful consideration of how the brains of boys and girls do but mostly do not differ." *Science*