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## Keepin' On: The Everyday Struggles of Young Families in Poverty

*Jean Ispa Ph.D., Kathy Thornburg Ph.D., Mark Fine Ph.D.*  
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**Jean Ispa Ph.D., Kathy Thornburg Ph.D., Mark Fine Ph.D. : Keepin' On: The Everyday Struggles of Young Families in Poverty** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Keepin' On: The Everyday Struggles of Young Families in Poverty:

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"A significant view of the lives of young families struggling with poverty . . . will make it easier to interact in a positive manner with [families] and perhaps improve society for everyone." (Benjamin S. Carson, M.D. Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, Professor of Neurological Surgery, Oncology, Plastic Surgery, and Pediatrics 20070416)"This is a wonderful book. On every level . . . this book succeeds." (Carollee Howes, Ph.D. Professor and Director, Center for the Improvement of Child Care Quality, Department of Education, UCLA 20070416)"Invaluable to those who train teachers and service providers . . . It is critical that we understand the dynamics of poverty at this level, where it intersects with and dominates family life." (Robert C. Pianta, Ph.D. Director, CASTL 20070416)"The[se] powerful stories will inform early childhood professionals, interventionists, and policy makers of the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit, even when surrounded by persistent risk." (Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D. University Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University 20070416)"Does a phenomenal job of capturing the challenges, anguish, and triumphs of young, single African American mothers living in poverty." (Helen Raikes, Ph.D. Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 20070416)"One cannot help but walk away from this book with a deep respect for the efforts these mothers make to "keep on keepin' on" despite the enormous obstacles they face on a daily basis . . . Few research volumes I have read in recent years have affected me as deeply as this one. This is high quality research . . . But this work also has a nearly novel-like quality to it, which speaks volumes for the way the authors let the voices of these nine women shine through..." (PsycCRITIQUES (APA) 20061001)"You can feel deep in your soul the actual struggles of single parents who live in poverty. If ever there is documentation to support the need to expand Early Head Start and Head Start, this book not only captures it but also provides concrete evidence of the programs' effectiveness. Great, inspirational reading for advocates and people working in the programs." (Sarah M. Greene President and CEO, National Head Start Association 20070406) --EndorsementAbout the AuthorDr. Fine was Editor of Family Relations from 1993 to 1996 and Editor of the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships from 1999 to 2004. His research interests lie in the areas of family transitions such as divorce and remarriage, early intervention program evaluation, social cognition, and relationship stability. He was co-editor, with David Demo and Katherine Allen, of Handbook of Family Diversity (Oxford University Press, 2000). He has published almost 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and books. He co-authored, with John Harvey, Children of Divorce: Stories of Hope and Loss (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004), and he co-edited, with John Harvey, The Handbook of Divorce and Relationship Dissolution (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2005). In 2000, Dr. Fine was selected as a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations.Dr. Ispa has been on the faculty of the University of MissouriColumbia since 1978. She has taught courses on child development, early childhood education, the history of the family in Russia, and, most recently, on the causes and consequences of poverty for U.S. children and families. Her research interests include the implications of culture for parenting and child development, children's social development, and child-rearing and family relationships in families with low income. Her previous book, Child Care in Russia: In Transition (Bergin Garvey, 1994), described child-rearing philosophy and practice in six Moscow child care centers shortly before the collapse of the Soviet government. Dr. Ispa also is the author of journal articles on African American, European American, Latino, and Russian parents' and teachers' child-rearing ideas and behaviors and their implications for children's development.Dr. Thornburg has been teaching and working in the area of early childhood education for 40 years. Her experience includes teaching preschoolers and third graders and directing early childhood programs for children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 10 years. She taught child development and child and family policy courses at the Universities of Kentucky and Missouri for 36 years. Dr. Thornburg serves on numerous state, regional, and national boards, councils, and commissions. From 2000 to 2002 she was president of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She has published more than 100 research articles, book chapters, and books. Her research has appeared in journals such as Early Childhood Education Journal, Educational and Psychological Measurement, Early Childhood Research Quarterly, and Educational Research Quarterly. Her research interests include public policy issues relating to early childhood programs, early childhood teacher training, and teacher turnover.