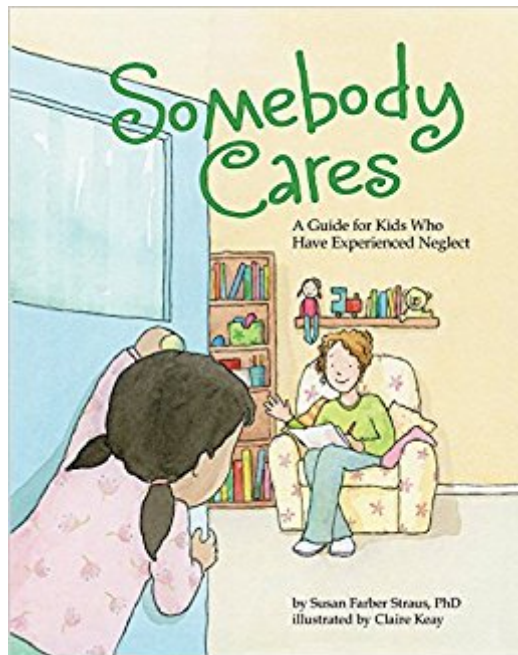




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# Somebody Cares: A Guide For Kids Who Have Experienced Neglect



## Synopsis

Useful to read with a caring adult, *Somebody Cares* is a book for children who have experienced parental neglect and have been taking care of many things on their own. It helps them understand their feelings, thoughts, and behaviors and prepares them for changes in their families. Most importantly, *Somebody Cares* teaches children that they are not to blame and were brave to do so much on their own. Includes a "Note to Readers" inside for children and an online "Note to Parents and Caregivers" for adults.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Magination Press; Reprint edition (March 14, 2016)

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Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.1 x 10 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #423,980 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships](#) #139 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse](#) #1238 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Child Psychology](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-4 • Soft colors and a gentle tone accompany this title meant for children who have experienced neglect. Written in the first person, the text explores what that situation might have been like (physically and emotionally) and what working with a social worker means. The narrative begins with a confident child who is beginning to have doubts about his ability to take care of himself ("There were times I felt good about being me. But that's not how I felt all the time. Lots of times I needed help and there was no help."). Each spread is broken into several panels that follow a diverse group of children as they try to cope with neglectful home environments. Regardless of what the neglect is (lack of food, extended periods alone, parental substance abuse or fighting) each example is shown as a recurring incident that has a very saddening and traumatic

effect on the child ("I thought this was the way it would be forever."). Hope arrives in the form of a social worker. Next, the child, caregiver, and social worker all work together to solve the issue of neglect. A "Safety Plan" and a "Feel-Good Plan" are introduced as a way for kids to maintain a sense of independence while undergoing potentially stressful changes—seeing a social worker, visiting a psychologist, or moving into a new home. VERDICT A therapeutic tool for school counselors, therapists, and social workers. An additional purchase for libraries. —Karen Ginman, BookOps: The New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A therapeutic tool for school counselors, therapists, and social workers. --School Library JournalIt is a commonplace in the field of child protection to observe that "neglect is neglected." Thus, a book for children experiencing neglect is much needed, if for no other reason than so that adults have the guidance and support necessary for providing children with the support they need. Susan Straus has accomplished this in her book *Somebody Cares*. Having interviewed maltreated children myself I welcome this inviting volume as a tool to enter into a dialogue with children about the adversity in their lives and how to find a positive path forward. --James Garbarino, PhD, Loyola University ChicagoAn important tool.... This book belongs in every school library and counselor's office. --Children's Books Heal*Somebody Cares* is an excellent book for children to share with caring adults (including foster parents, kinship parents, or therapists). --Midwest Book Review --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

SOMEBODY CARES will comfort children who are neglected and have responsibilities that belong to an adult. Being ignored or expected to handle tough issues can lead to so many long term emotional problems or even Complex-PTSD. I am a retired Special Education Teacher and used books as a type of therapy in my room. This therapy, bibliotherapy, is a vital and successful way to reach students who have usually been told at home to never tell others what is happening. I marked this as a four due to the unrealistic methods the author mentioned as solutions. This is not a criticism toward the author, but let's be honest . The solutions in the book are only found in the best situations. Often, Family Services will not have the resources they need to help a child, parents may punish the child physically and verbally for breaking the unwritten "code" of silence, and parents may have too many problems to change at that time. Even in private schools, the people who could help do not feel comfortable helping. The entire book is excellent, but additional solutions need to be discussed. These can be as simple as a case worker designating a safe house for a child to run to,

or the school signing up a child for weekend meal backpacks so easily prepared food is available. Above all, children need to feel validated about what they are telling someone, and each child should be encouraged to never, ever give up hope for a better life.

I use this book to teach the concept of neglect to kids workout calling it neglect. The book does a great job of encouraging and validating the feelings of the child without villainizing the negligent parent. It also introduces child social workers and teachers as helpers and child protective worker's safety plans as opportunities for the family to grow. I'm really happy with this purchase

This is a wonderful book. All social workers who deal with children should have these on hand!

great

Very good book for trauma.

excellent

Great resource

A good resource for children who experience some kind of neglect. Offers different situations that different kids face and how they handle their emotions and it also explains why these emotions are natural. Written by Susan Farber Straus, PHD and illustrated by Claire Keay. Published by Magination Press. #PB #selfhelp #resource

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