



Hothouse Kids

Alissa Quart

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An exposé of the ways in which today's children are being driven ever harder to succeed.

Alissa Quart's deeply disturbing account looks at the intensely competitive and frenzied lives of America's children. Travelling the country and talking to scores of parents, teachers and children she looks at the overhyped world of baby edutainment and 'better baby' early education programmes, takes the lid off the world of IQ testing and child competitions, and explores the lives of particular children who have been identified as prodigies — from a four-year-old painter whose works sell for \$300,000 to an eight-year-old professional skateboarder who is backed by nine corporate sponsors.

She asks the questions that many parents find themselves asking. Where should parents and teachers draw the line? How do we establish when children are being under-stimulated or over-stretched? And can the hothousing of children lead to irreparable problems later in life? *Hothouse Kids* is a thought-provoking, often shocking exploration of a subject that is only too worryingly topical.

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