

**Sample Q & A**  
**It's OK to Go Up the Slide**  
**Renegade Rules for Raising Confident and Creative Kids**

Tarcher/Penguin Random House 2016  
by Heather Shumaker

1. Your title is *It's OK to Go Up the Slide*. Why do kids climb up the slide? And what do you do when another kid wants to come down? In other words, how do you deal with the rights of one versus the rights of the group?
2. We hear a lot about helicopter parenting. You have a chapter called "Safety Second." Is this sort of the anti-helicopter parenting book?
3. We've all been told all our lives: "Don't talk to strangers." You're saying the opposite. Why?
4. Your book creates "Renegade Rules" for parents. Let's look at some of these (choose a few to talk about):
  - Rule #1 Safety Second
  - Rule # 4 It's OK to Talk to Strangers
  - Rule # 7 Recess is a Right
  - Rule # 8 Ban Elementary School Homework
  - Rule #12 Banish Calendars at Circle Time
  - Rule #14 Don't Remove Ogres from Books
  - Rule #20 Families are Not Entertainment Centers
5. Homework plays such a huge part of a child's schooling. Why are you proposing a ban? Isn't homework good for kids?
6. Let's talk about recess. What's going on with recess today? Do they have time for recess in a school day with so many curriculum requirements?
7. When I was in kindergarten, we mostly played and sang songs. Has kindergarten really changed? What are we expecting of kids today?
8. There's a section on technology in your book. What do young kids need when it comes to screens?
9. Your book addresses pink, princess play. What's your take, is it good or bad?
10. This book is a sequel to your first book, *It's OK Not to Share*. What kind of reactions do you get to these countercultural ideas?