

= Stay Together for the Kids =

" Stay Together for the Kids " is a song recorded by American rock band Blink 182 for their fourth studio album , Take Off Your Pants and Jacket (2001) . It was released as the third and final single from the album on February 19 , 2002 . The track was composed primarily by guitarist Tom DeLonge , who based its lyrics on his parents ' divorce and its effect on him .

The song 's original music video , directed by Samuel Bayer , depicts the band performing in a home being destroyed by a wrecking ball in a metaphor for divorce . The clip was re-shot following the 9 / 11 attacks , with both the band and label deeming its imagery too similar to the collapse of the World Trade Center .

The song received positive reviews from contemporary music critics , who complimented its serious tone . It was a hit on rock radio in the United States , where it peaked at number seven on the Modern Rock Tracks chart in 2001 .

= = Background = =

" Stay Together for the Kids " is written about divorce from the point of view of a helpless child . Its heavier sound was inspired by bands the group 's members were listening to in the two weeks they wrote their fourth album , Take Off Your Pants and Jacket , such as Fugazi and Refused . Primarily written by guitarist Tom DeLonge , the song is biographical in nature . He and bassist Mark Hoppus were growing up when their parents divorced . For Hoppus , he was eight years old when he was sent to live with his father . " The thing you realize as you get older is that parents don ' t know what the hell they ' re doing and neither will you when you get to be a parent . You ' ve just got to understand that people are human and they make mistakes , " he said . DeLonge remembered learning of his parents ' divorce when he discovered scrape marks on the driveway of their home . " Right then , I knew my dad had dragged out his furniture single handedly , " he recalled . He spoke on the song 's inspiration in 2001 :

Due to its tone and subject matter , it is considered one of the band 's darker songs , alongside " Adam 's Song " , their 2000 single revolving around suicide . Hoppus told an interviewer at the time of the album 's release that " There 's always a song or two where we really try to really push ourselves [...] On this new record I think we 've done a lot of different stuff that people wouldn 't ever expect from us . [...] On the new one , it 's ' Stay Together for the Kids . ' " DeLonge later confirmed he had received emails from fans thanking him for the song 's message . " With " Stay Together " , we get emails ? just kid after kid after kid ? saying , ' I know exactly what you 're talking about ! That song is about my life ! ' " In 2002 , divorce statistics were four times higher than their average just over thirty years prior , with over 50 percent of marriages ending in divorce . " You look at statistics that 50 percent of parents get divorced , and you ' re going to get a pretty large group of kids who are pissed off and who don ' t agree with what their parents have done , " said DeLonge . " Stay Together " was the final song completed during the recording sessions ; it was created one day before the album was handed off to the mixing engineer .

= = Composition = =

" Stay Together for the Kids " is set in the time signature of common time , with a tempo of 72 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of D major with vocals spanning the tonal nodes of A3 to B5 . Hoppus and DeLonge split vocals on the song , with the former handling verses and the latter singing the choruses . In the verses , the lyrics detail a marriage gone awry : " Rather than fix the problems / They never solve them / It makes no sense at all . " The song fades out with DeLonge singing " It ' s not right . "

= = Commercial performance = =

" Stay Together for the Kids " was released as a single and EP with live tracks and video extras . It

debuted on Billboard 's Modern Rock Tracks chart in the issue dated September 22 , 2001 at number 36 , before gradually rising to a peak of position seven in the issue dated November 24 , 2001 . The single spent 26 weeks on the chart as a whole , before appearing for the last time in the issue dated March 16 , 2002 . It also peaked at number 16 and spent five weeks on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which documents top singles that have yet to chart on the main chart , the Billboard Hot 100 . By June 2002 , the song had accumulated over 80 @,@ 000 spins on radio in the United States , and it received a BDS Certified Spin Award . Outside of the US , the song charted in Germany , where it reached a peak of 73 .

= = Reception = =

" Stay Together for the Kids " received positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone deemed the song " bleak , " describing it as a " broken @-@ family snapshot . " Eric Aiese of Billboard wrote that the song " remains compelling throughout , " suggesting it could be a " MacArthur Park " or " Hey Jude " within the band ' s catalogue . Slant Magazine 's Aaron Scott called it " the best track on the album , " writing , " The surprising content about a marriage that is resisting divorce will certainly appeal to a generation of youth subjected to a massive divorce epidemic . Blink hints at something here , but resists saying anything concrete . "

William Shaw of Blender compared the song to then @-@ popular songs by rock bands about divorce , such as Papa Roach (" Broken Home ") , Staind (" For You ") and Nickelback (" Too Bad ") , commenting , " The ' 90s had Generation X ? have we ended up with Generation Whine ? " He interviewed DeLonge , who remarked in response to divorce 's effect on children , " Is this a damaged generation ? Yeah , I ' d say so . "

In popular culture , the song is played on acoustic guitar by a soldier in the War in Afghanistan near the end of the film Restrepo (2010) .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Stay Together for the Kids " was directed by Samuel Bayer , best known for his work with Metallica and Nirvana . In the clip , Blink @-@ 182 perform in a suburban home that is destroyed with a wrecking ball in a metaphor for a " crumbling marriage . " The video opens with a statistic , claiming that " 50 percent of American households are destroyed by divorce . "

The band filmed the music video on September 9 ? 10 , 2001 in Los Angeles , in days preceding the 9 / 11 terrorist attacks . Following those events , the band and its label MCA felt the clip ' s images were " too evocative " of the footage of the collapse of the World Trade Center . The band ended up re @-@ recording the entire video with the same production crew , with the setting changed to an empty mansion populated by shouting teens .

The original , uncut video was first released on The Urethra Chronicles II : Harder Faster Faster Harder , a 2002 home video on the band . The video has since widely become available online on sites like YouTube .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Blink @-@ 182 .

= = Chart positions = =