

The Rhetoric of Midwifery is well structured. It explains the previous and current controversies surrounding midwifery and birth in a lucid manner, so that those outside the field may easily comprehend the material. The first three chapters cover the midwifery debate in the U.S., rhetorical analysis within these midwifery debates, and the rhetorical history of midwifery. The following three chapters detail the experience of the Minnesota midwives, their professional jurisdictions, and their licensing rules and regulations. The final chapter recapitulates the issues of gender and power surrounding the direct-entry midwife. Also included in the book are three sets of appendices; Notes; a Bibliography; and an Index, all of which are exceptionally helpful in and of themselves.

Lay's explicit coverage of these proceedings shows how each side, the midwives and the traditional medical community, has its own individual authoritative terminology. Clearly, the book is written in support of the Minnesota midwives but, to accurately portray the hearings, Lay includes the language of their opponents. The fact that a reader is able to conceptualize both sides of the argument and then make a judgment is one of the strengths of this book. Although the Minnesota midwives were granted their licensing by the passing of a state law in January 2000, the statutes are ambiguous. For example, midwives are able to provide care "for those women who are expected to have a normal pregnancy, labor and delivery," but they are not able to perform emergency episiotomies (186).

A wonderful scholarly addition to the field, *The Rhetoric of Midwifery* will also be a valuable resource not only for the field of midwifery, but also for women's studies, the medical field, for historians, sociologists, philosophers, and rhetoricians.

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Newborn: The Complete Guide

Penny Simkin, Janet Whalley, and Ann Keppler
New York: Meadowbrook Press, 1991. Second ed.

Reviewed by Jillian Duquaine

Penny Simkin, Janet Whalley, and Ann Keppler, three members of the Childbirth Education Association of Seattle, have compiled a well-organized, comprehensive guide to the three stages in the female reproductive cycle: pregnancy, birth, and caring for a newborn. The second edition, updated and expanded, includes more illustrations, photographs, and charts, as well as two

additional chapters. One chapter focuses on drugs, medications, and environmental hazards, and a second chapter considers cesarean birth and vaginal birth after a previous cesarean (VBAC). The new edition reflects an awareness of the changing times and attempts to avoid gendered assumptions concerning partners, coaches, infants, and caregivers. Detailed yet easy to understand, the guide is a useful reference for pregnant women.

However, despite the progressive tone which the authors use in the preface, the book reinforces rather than challenges traditional notions of motherhood. In doing so, it approaches pregnancy, childbirth, and caring for an infant narrowly and does not recognize motherhood as multifaceted.

For example, despite the fact that a wide range of emotions can and do accompany the experience of motherhood, the authors limit their discussion solely to “positive” emotions. They describe birth as a joyous event and regard the expectant mother as anticipating the “long-awaited joy of having the baby” (32). However, they fail to recognize that fulfillment can also be accompanied by anger, jealousy, and resentment. Imagine, for example, a woman who lacks the financial means to support the child she is carrying or does not want the child. Or think about a woman whose colicky newborn has kept her awake every night for the past week. What might their emotions be regarding their experiences?

Failing to articulate a broad range of mothering experiences can have serious consequences. Such failure impacts the private lives of women and demands that they adhere to narrow definitions of acceptable mothering. Mothers who fail to do so risk being labeled bad mothers, a label which can lead to feelings of inadequacy and carries social as well as legal sanctions. Since pregnancy and childbirth guides occupy a central place in contemporary discourse about motherhood, it is imperative that authors and consumers of these guides continue to problematize narrow assumptions about motherhood. Only then can we begin to move beyond idealization and toward an understanding of motherhood in its full complexity.

A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies

Judy DeLoache and Alma Gottlieb
Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2000

Reviewed by Petra Büskens

The title of Judy DeLoache and Alma Gottlieb's *A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies* is somewhat perplexing. Imagined Childcare