

Notes for Parents and Carers from author Rachel Greener

For children aged five and under

If you choose to share this book with a child under five, the simplest approach to sharing the content is to let the child look at the pictures that interest them and tell you what they see.

When asked about what was happening on the page which explains sex, for example, my four-year-old told me that the room was very messy as there were clothes all over the floor. As the cut-away diagrams are beyond my child's current comprehension level, the main focus was the room itself. We used this as a starting point to talk about why the people in the picture had needed to take their clothes off in order to make a baby.

As another example, a child might choose to focus on the naked babies and adults. This is an opportunity to talk about how the bodies they are seeing on the page are the same as each other in many ways and different in others. This is a good chance to expand your child's vocabulary and give them the tools to label their own anatomy correctly. You can practise using these terms at other times, too, such as bath time or when they are getting dressed.

You can choose to follow the language used in the book, or you can paraphrase the content in a way that you feel your child will understand. The aim is to normalise conversations around how babies are made, to encourage your child to ask questions, and to build confidence as an adult to give clear and direct answers.



*Making a Baby: An Inclusive Guide
to How Every Family Begins*
By Rachel Greener
Illustrated by Clare Owen
9781788008013 Hardback

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For children aged five to seven

For this age, even if your child is a confident reader, we would recommend this remains a shared reading experience, as the main aim of this book is to provide a jumping off point for further conversation about your own family's story, should you wish to share this information with your child.

You may prefer to initially focus on the text in bold, which summarises the key content on each page – and to have general discussions around the artwork based on your child's interest in particular scenes or images. Alternatively, you may find your child has the attention span and understanding to follow all of the text, including the diagrams,

or somewhere in-between. The book can be read chronologically, or you can dip in and out, focusing on just a few pages at a time.

By keeping this book alongside your other children's literature, we would hope that this is a title your child will want to return to again and again as they get older. As their level of understanding grows, the information given in the book will help you to provide more detailed answers to their questions.



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