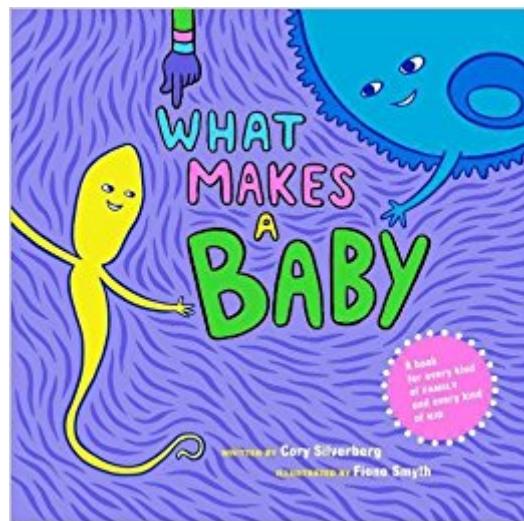


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# What Makes A Baby



## Synopsis

“What Makes a Baby is extraordinary! Cory is a Dr. Spock for the 21st century.” •Susie Bright “A Truly Inclusive Way to Answer the Question ‘Where Do Babies Come From?’” The new book *What Makes a Baby* offers an origin story for all children, no matter what their families look like.” •The Atlantic “This is a solid, occasionally quirky book on an important topic.” •School Library Journal Geared to readers from preschool to age eight, *What Makes a Baby* is a book for every kind of family and every kind of kid. It is a twenty-first century children’s picture book about conception, gestation, and birth, which reflects the reality of our modern time by being inclusive of all kinds of kids, adults, and families, regardless of how many people were involved, their orientation, gender and other identity, or family composition. Just as important, the story doesn’t gender people or body parts, so most parents and families will find that it leaves room for them to educate their child without having to erase their own experience. Written by sexuality educator Cory Silverberg, and illustrated by award-winning Canadian artist Fiona Smyth, *What Makes a Baby* is as fun to look at as it is useful to read.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD740L (What’s this?)

Hardcover: 36 pages

Publisher: Triangle Square; 1 edition (May 7, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609804856

ISBN-13: 978-1609804855

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 151 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #18,331 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Sexuality #52 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby #126 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2Ã¢â€œIntending to be Ã¢â€œa book for every kind of FAMILY and every kind of KID,Ã¢â€œ this title has lofty aspirations that are mostly successful. It emphasizes that not everyone goes about having a baby the same way. Silverberg explains that the genetic material in a sperm or egg has stories to tell Ã¢â€œabout the body [it] came from.Ã¢â€œ The bold, stylized illustrations show non-gender-specific people in a rainbow of hues, some with internal parts to make a baby and others without. Refreshingly, anatomically correct terminology is used in most cases, although when describing a birth, the author writes, Ã¢â€œSome babies are born by coming out through a part of the body that most people call the vagina,Ã¢â€œ as if that term were debatable. The text also states that many babies are born with other kinds of medical intervention at the hands of midwives and doctors, providing a well-rounded view of modern birth. The final spread asks, Ã¢â€œWho was waiting for you to be born?Ã¢â€œ and successfully makes the point that the people waiting for the birth to occur are excited. This is a solid, occasionally quirky book on an important topic.Ã¢â€œJenna Boles, Greene County Public Library, OHÃ¢â€œ (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

"The playful illustrations and simple but intelligent text illuminate the basic biology of reproduction while honoring todayÃ¢â€œs diversity of families, of genders and gender identities, and of how kids can come into a family."Ã¢â€œ Maria Popova, Brainpickings.org "This is a solid, occasionally quirky book on an important topic."Ã¢â€œ School Library JournalÃ¢â€œ "ItÃ¢â€œs an informative and entertaining read for kids of all parents, straight or queer. And, hey, even if your kids were conceived the old-fashioned way, they should know not everyone wasÃ¢â€œ and why."Ã¢â€œÃ¢â€œ Queerty "What Makes a Baby aims to be just about the most inclusive sex ed book for kids you've ever come across[...] it has none of this mommy and daddy love each other and he watered her flower with his watering can and then a baby was born stuff;Ã¢â€œ What Makes a Baby is for kids around four to eight years of age, teaching them about"conception, gestation, and birth" using really specific language."Ã¢â€œ Jezebel "What Makes a BabyÃ¢â€œ is a delightful, touching, brilliantly written and beautifully illustrated book that really is Ã¢â€œfor every kind of family, and every kind of kid.Ã¢â€œ It creates space for parents to answer questions about reproduction in an age appropriate way and in a way that also speaks to the reality of their family and those around them. Kids and their grown-ups will love this book!"Ã¢â€œ Jolanta Scott-Parker,Ã¢â€œ Executive Director, Canadian Federation of Sexual Health "What Makes a BabyÃ¢â€œ offers a combination so rarely captured in children's books; beauty and meaning, fact and nuance, and most importantly the opportunity for all of us to see ourselves in these pages.Ã¢â€œ A

book explaining pregnancy and childbirth that accounts for the wonderfully diverse ways babies are made is a gift."•Nadya Burton, PhD,Â Midwifery Education Program atÂ Ryerson University"•The book talks about where babies come from in a way that encompasses kids who are adopted, conceived using reproductive technologies, through surrogacy, or the old-fashioned way, and regardless of how many people were involved, their orientation, gender, and other identity, or family composition. Author and sex educator Silverberg nails it, as does award-winning Canadian artist Fiona Smyth, who illustrated the book."•The Advocate"Designed for all kinds of children in all kinds of families, this will be particularly welcome in adoptive and non-traditional families but is, uniquely, an appealing and informative complement to early sex-education discussions with any child."•Kirkus Reviews, starred reviews"Smyth's cartoons recall the work of Todd Parr, with a bright crayon-box palette. Silverberg's writing is informative yet sufficiently general to let adults tailor the accompanying conversations as needed. A useful springboard for conversations about childbirth, no matter the family."•Publisher's Weekly"Silverberg's quest to exclude no one means he omits much in the book — including any mention of sex. The point, he says, is to get children asking questions but letting parents answering them with however much detail they see fit."•The Globe and Mail" "What Makes A Baby presents factual information on conception on a kid's level. With text that is open to personal embellishment, this book is sure to cater to many families and birth experiences."•Green Parent Chicago"•The new book What Makes a Baby offers an origin story for all children, no matter what their families look like."•The Atlantic" LGBT parents—and any others who have ever struggled to explain reproduction to their young children in a way relevant to their families—will rejoice at the new picture book What Makes a Baby. In 32 vibrant pages, Toronto-based author Cory Silverberg explains how babies are made—in a way that works for all family structures, ways of family creation, and parents' gender identity."•Bay Windows"•Our family needed this book. Your family needs this book. In fact, I can't think of a family that doesn't."•Philadelphia Family Pride" Now parents can have easy-going, straightforward, and (hopefully) painless discussions with kids about the miracle of birth!"•Parents

What Makes a Baby is a birds and the bees book for all kinds of families ÂfÂçÂ à ã œ queer, straight, adoptive, birth, folks who conceived ÂfÂçÂ à ã œ "naturally"ÂfÂçÂ à ã œ and folks who needed medical assistance, folks who had a vaginal birth and folks who had a c-section. Totally appropriate for little kids. Pros: Age-appropriate and medically accurate without being clinical

or saying anything about "when a mommy and daddy love each other." Bright, colorful, fun illustrations. Has one of the best descriptions of childbirth I've ever read: "sometimes it hurts a little, and sometimes it hurts a lot." Cons: I can't think of one. The Bottom Line: If you are looking for a basic "how babies are made" book, buy this one. It's great for queer families, but also for folks who used IVF or adopted or just didn't have the standard conception.

As a single woman who conceived my son via donor sperm, I am so grateful for this book as an entry point for discussions with my son, now 4, about not only where babies come from but also his specific origins. We've read it numerous times in the last year since another single mom recommended it, and just last night, my son asked who the sperm that made him came from. It was a major moment for me as I shared the specifics about what a donor is and how grateful I am for the generous man who helped me create him. Thanks to the author -- your book is a gift to me and my son!

What a great book! My husband and I have started the adoption journey for the second time and this prompted our three-year-old son to start asking questions about where babies come from. I purchased *What Makes A Baby* after a friend recommended it, and the book was exactly what I was looking for! It covers reproduction in a very "matter of fact" way while still managing to be age appropriate for younger children. It's also inclusive of families that have children via adoption, surrogacy, co-parenting, and any other means. And the best part is that it introduces scenarios that are left open for parents to fill in the blanks with information relevant to their own specific family journey. I can't recommend this book enough.

If you want a book that describes what's physically required for making a baby without making assumptions about, say, how a sperm and an egg get together or what the gender of the people who have sperm and eggs are, this is the book for you. It's simple and clearly illustrated, and my toddler picked it up within a few days to see what the bright colors are about!

Beautifully written by one of the most knowledgeable people in the sexology field, it is particularly helpful in my work because I work with individuals and couples, who are straight and LGBTQ. Here is a book that makes sense to them and makes sense to their children. As a sex therapist and

sexuality educator, I am always watching for books that are a significant contribution to the literature and books that I can recommend to others. This hits my top ten in both categories.

It amuses the heck out of me when my 2 year olds point to the pictures:"He has a sperm and he has a sperm and he has a sperm and he has an egg and he does not.""He has a uterus and he does not and he does not and he does not."That baby is big enough to come out and that one is too small and that one is too small."There's fish and there's a water fountain and that's a little butterfly and that's a big butterfly"They're still working on gender, and don't always prioritize the story line, but they've definitely grasped the basic points of the book, and greatly enjoyed themselves in the process.Highly recommended.

Bravo to the author's of this book! If you need an ice breaker for the whole "birds and the bees" with your kids- start with this! My 4 year old loves this, and as a former midwife and now mom- so do I. It is factual and matter of fact, doesn't assign gender, religious beliefs, or other hocus pocus in the topic of making babies. The illustrations are colorful and allow the reader to make of them as they will (basically the figures in the book are gender neutral appearing). It has allowed for us to start discussing the hows and whys, etc at a level and understanding that she is ready for.This book really needs to win awards- I don't know what awards this would qualify for, but I would give it the Bourgeois Family Gold Star Approval!

Great book for people of all ages. I especially like that it doesn't assume biology and gender are the same thing, and simply and colorfully illustrates this well.

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