**Pregnancy, Birth, and the Early Months: The Thinking Woman’s Guide**

by Richard I Feinbloom, MD

Review by Luz Garcia, PA

The goal of *Pregnancy, Birth, and the Early Months: The Thinking Woman’s Guide* is written to educate pregnant women, and I, as a woman, certainly did feel very well informed after reading this book.

Now in its third edition, the book is written clearly, concisely, and comprehensively. The author, an experienced physician, starts with an unusual, interesting discussion of the decision-making process and provides information that people can use throughout their lives when facing complex choices. The first piece of advice given is for women to become widely informed about all aspects of pregnancy and reproduction so that they can evaluate the pros and cons of any pregnancy-related choices to be made. The book takes an intellectual approach to its subject (appropriate for most—but perhaps not all—of the intended audience), and relevant supporting data are provided freely. The book will be of interest not only to mothers but also to fathers. 

**Helping Your Child Lose Weight the Healthy Way: A Family Approach to Weight Control**

by Judith Levine, RD, MS, and Linda Bine

Review by Kathleen H Jones, MD

We’ve all seen the headlines: Obesity and type II diabetes in children are now reaching epidemic proportions. Indeed, surveys by the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that about one in five children in the United States is now overweight. But obesity in children is not just a frightening headline: Obesity is an important chronic disorder associated with many possible long-term complications as well as complex family, social, and psychological issues. Brave is the parent or clinician who dares to assume the task of attempting to rescue a child from the clutches of obesity. Braver yet are the clinician and health writer who would create a guide for such parents.

Judith Levine (a registered dietician and consultant for the American Heart Association) and Linda Bine (a health and medical writer as well as senior editor for Kaiser Permanente in Northern California) have done just that by creating the revised and updated edition of *Helping Your Child Lose Weight the Healthy Way*.

The authors use a sensitive, well-organized, practical, family-oriented approach to outline a concise plan for helping a child lose weight. More important, they...
sensitively avoid singling out one child as needing to lose weight or be more active. This approach not only respects the self-esteem of the child but also recognizes that long-term success can be achieved only if the whole family is involved and if changes are gradual, small, and ongoing. The authors also recognize that children learn best by example.

The last section teaches parents how to facilitate change and how to recognize their own attitudes that might hinder change. The book also contains a section of “kid-friendly” recipes, followed by excellent bibliographic references. The book’s recommendations closely follow recommendations of the Expert Committee on Pediatric Obesity convened by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services.

As a parent and as a pediatrician who is truly frustrated by inadequate skills in treating obesity, I see this book as a ray of light in a dark room. The book uses an excellent stepwise approach that treats obesity simply and logically as a chronic problem and warns against short-term, quick weight loss. The book is helpful not only for parents but also for any clinician who provides medical care to overweight children.

References
Heartburn: In early pregnancy, this is thought to be caused by the hormone progesterone, which relaxes the uterine muscles as well as the valve between the esophagus and the stomach. Later on, heartburn is caused by the baby putting pressure on your abdomen.

Increased Hunger: This is often described as incredible hunger, and often lasts throughout one's entire pregnancy. Like any month of pregnancy, this first one differs greatly from woman to woman. The timing of that first pregnancy symptom also varies widely—both between women and between each of their pregnancies. People have reported feeling symptoms of their pregnancy: One week after conception.