

“Where Did I *Really* Come From?”

Assisted Reproductive Technology in Self-Published Children’s Picture Books

PATRICIA MENDELL AND PATRICIA SARLES

For those wanting to become parents but unable to conceive naturally, reproductive medicine has offered alternative routes to having a baby. The most difficult decision for parents who decide to use alternative family-building options is whether to tell their child that he or she was born with the assistance of a donor and/or surrogate. Parents want to know what to say when their child starts asking “Where did I come from?”

Parents often are concerned about what language to use in discussing disclosure and conception and how their child will react once told. Because most children’s understanding of reproduction evolves over time, so will the questions they ask about their origins. While there are many excellent books that have helped parents address the question of natural conception, only in the last twenty years has there been a gradual increase in books about third party reproduction, and in particular, in those written for children. What is there, if anything, and how do librarians locate these materials for their patrons?

It is this body of literature that intrigued me when I (Patricia Sarles) met Patricia Mendell, a psychotherapist specializing in reproductive health, in 2003, when my partner and I attempted

to get pregnant via artificial insemination.

It was pure coincidence that around the same time that I met Patricia, I read a book review of *Donuthead* by Sue Stauffacher, a tween novel about a boy who happened to be the product of donor sperm. How interesting I thought—and so did Patricia—that there could be books written for teenagers with characters who were the products of ART (assisted reproductive technologies). How common was this, or was it not? Had anybody else ever written about children who were the products of ART?

Patricia was curious, and so was I. Thus began a fascinating search that brought us first to the Library of Congress (LC) to see how *Donuthead* was cataloged, only to immediately discover that the subject headings “Courage,” “Fear,” “Self-actualization,” “Friendship,” “Mothers and sons,” and “Single-parent families” were not going to help us find other books like it, specifically books with characters who were the product of donor sperm.

While the cataloging for this novel certainly seemed thorough, where was any indication that the main character was the product of a sperm donor? I would have to use a keyword search to see what would come up. Could it be that there were no

Patricia Mendell is cochair and a founding member of The American Fertility Association, a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Mental Health Professionals Group, and a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. Her expertise is in fertility counseling, third-party reproduction, pregnancy, parenting, children with learning challenges, and adoption. She can be reached online at www.patriciamendell.com. *Patricia Sarles* is the Librarian at the Jerome Parker Campus Library in Staten Island, New York. She is a former medical librarian, academic librarian, and public librarian and has been a New York City school librarian for the past sixteen years. Her research interests include special collections, bibliotherapy, and library services to underserved and special populations. She can be reached at psarles@schools.nyc.gov.

subject headings for donor offspring or the donor-conceived? I had never searched for this subject, so I had no idea what I would find. Could *Donuthead* be the only one? Could it be that the LC had no need to create a new subject heading for donor offspring, as there was only one book out there? How interesting this was becoming, for how does a librarian find books on certain subjects if there are no subject headings for those books?

A keyword search quickly uncovered another book, *The Sperm Donor's Daughter and Other Tales of Modern Family* by Kathryn Trueblood. Was this indeed a book about a child conceived via sperm donor, or simply a clever title? A summary in *Books in Print* confirmed that yes, the main character in the title piece was indeed the product of sperm donation. So here were two books, Trueblood's book, first published in 1998, and Stauffacher's, published in 2003. An LC keyword search uncovered one other book, published in 2003, whose main character was also conceived via donor sperm: *Singing the Dogstar Blues* by Alison Goodman. Our hesitation about this title was that it was cataloged as science fiction and therefore might not have been a "realistic" novel about the experience of being a donor offspring.

In 2003, the year we began looking for these types of books, this was all that had been published. But how could we be totally sure that we'd left no stone unturned unless we had a subject heading with which to begin our search?

Our search turned to children's books. Patricia had shared with me that over the years, she had found that many of the books published on donor offspring had either been written by colleagues in the field or by donor offspring parents who had felt the need to write their own book to help explain to their own children the special circumstances of their conception. Armed with these titles, we went back to the LC to see if it owned them and if so, what subject headings they were assigned.

Not only did the LC not own most of these books, but, again, the few they did own made no mention of the fact that the books were about donor offspring. In fact, the subject headings the LC did apply did not truly reflect the books' contents: "Infertility," "Babies," "Test tube babies," and "Artificial insemination, Human," were the most common subject headings used.

None of these subject headings contained the words "donor offspring" or even directly mentioned these children, nor did they provide a hint at the books' purpose for their readers—to help parents explain to their children their donor origins. And in the case of two children's book series written for donor-offspring by authors Janice Grimes and Iréné Celcer, the LC cataloging is odd. It catalogs Grimes' books as nonfiction even though she uses talking bears as the main characters and Celcer's books as fiction even though she uses human beings as its main characters. Both books are actually fiction.

To add even more confusion to the inconsistency of the listings, Grimes and Celcer both wrote a series of books that explain the different methods of conception to children, yet the LC did not feel the need to include all the books in Grimes' series, while

it did include all the books in Celcer's series. As Hope A. Olson states in her article in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* about LC Subject Headings,

library users seeking material on topics outside of a traditional mainstream will meet with frustration in finding nothing, or they will find something but miss important relevant materials. Effective searching for marginalized topics will require greater ingenuity and serendipity than searching mainstream topics.¹

Both the Grimes and Celcer book series are clear examples that LC subject headings need to be updated to reflect the growing number of children born from alternative family choices as a result of the advances made in the last thirty years in reproductive medicine. While both series are part of the LC catalog, they are cataloged differently.

Both series contain donor offspring characters for children and serve the same purpose for the parents of these children, but because they are cataloged differently, the average reference librarian would most likely not direct a patron to these books. This lack of uniformity in subject headings, as well as the absence of the LC subject heading "donor-offspring," makes it difficult to search for books on this subject.

As one donor-offspring mother said, "Considering that there have been well over one million donor offspring born, this sends the message that children like my son do not exist because the Library of Congress has not established an official subject category for these children and their families."²

Bibliographic Access

Inconsistencies in LC cataloging are notorious and unfortunate, since librarians and patrons rely so heavily on the cataloging as the "de facto standard for libraries in the United States and elsewhere."³

In the case of donor offspring, there are no LC subject headings at all, yet the term could also conceivably be constructed as "Children of sperm donors," "Children of egg donors," or "Children of gamete donors," as well as "Children of donor embryos," and "Children of surrogate mothers," since the LC does delineate the concept of "Children of . . ."

Take for instance the children of entertainers in Great Britain, France, West Germany, and the Soviet Union. There is just one book each on these topics in the LC, yet these subjects have been given their own subject headings. Take, as well, the children of epileptics, the children of football players, and the children of ex-Jews. These too have a single book in the LC, yet they have all been given their own subject heading. So why not donor offspring or at least children of gamete donors?

When I began searching the LC catalog and uncovered the above discrepancies and the lack of consistency with LC subject headings, I contacted the LC via the Ask a Librarian correspondence

form (www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-main2.html) hoping to bring this to their attention. I told them I had identified more than forty books at the time that were either about donor offspring or had donor offspring as main characters, and I received this response:

We have not had the need to establish a heading for the children of sperm donors, as we have not cataloged any items that specifically focus on that topic. The existing headings have been adequate for the items that we've cataloged. We establish new headings only as they are needed for cataloging new works being added to our collection.⁴

I wrote back giving them the titles of the thirteen books that did exist in their catalog—seven for children, five for young adults, and one for professionals—but I never heard back from them.

Technical services, however, is not the subject of this article. Nonetheless, how does the average reference librarian help a patron find books written for and about donor offspring? We have discovered seventy-eight books written for children and young adults that include donor-offspring characters. The annotated booklist included at the end of this article was created in the hopes that it will aid reference librarians with patrons, both parents and children, who come to them with these questions. It is also our hope that this list will help professionals outside the field of librarianship and in the field for which these books are intended: health-care professionals and consumers in the field of reproductive medicine.

While the children's booklist is primarily for parents of donor offspring to help explain assisted conception to their children, the list for young adults is meant to help older donor offspring children who are seeking books that address their questions about their unique origins.

ART and Donor Offspring

In England in 1978, Louise Brown was born via in vitro fertilization (IVF) and became known as the first “test-tube baby.” A year after her birth, the Browns used IVF again to conceive their second child.

Currently, there have been more than three million babies born of ART.⁵ The genetic origins of children of ART can vary depending upon the reproductive issues of their parents. These children are born to infertile couples and same-sex couples, as well as to women and men who choose single parenthood. Recipient parents can create their children through ART procedures using the following:

- An ovum (egg) of the mother and sperm from the father that is carried by the mother.
- A donated egg from another woman that could be related to the potential mother or not (egg donor) and the sperm of the intended father, carried by the intended mother (single or in a relationship).

- The definition for Gestational Surrogacy—is a woman who carries an embryo to term from an egg and sperm of persons not related to the carrier and therefore the carrier has no genetic connection to the resulting child.
- A donated egg and donated sperm from a sperm donor that is carried by the intended mother or gestational surrogate.
- A donated sperm and donated egg from one of the intended mothers that is carried by the other intended mother.
- A donated egg and sperm from one of the intended fathers that is carried by a gestational surrogate.
- A donated embryo that has been donated to another person or couple by the original recipients who have now completed their family and have decided to donate their excess embryos.
- A surrogate mother—a woman who has agreed to carry a baby that is a result of an egg donated from her and fertilized with the potential recipient father's sperm.

While there are still many more possible combinations that could be discussed, it is important to be clear that children conceived through reproductive technology via a third party, whether it be a donated egg, donated sperm, a donated embryo, or a surrogate mother, fall under the label “donor offspring.”

In 1983, Australia reported the first birth of a baby born through the use of a donated egg and IVE⁶ Presently, the number of children created through donor eggs is estimated to be close to one hundred thousand.⁷

While little is known about the first use of donor sperm for procreation, it is believed that this option has been around for more than a hundred years. In the last thirty years, donor insemination has gone through many changes. It is more mainstreamed and accepted in society, there are increased regulatory rules and licensures of sperm banks, and there is a growing awareness and demand that donor information and identity be more available to the parents and their donor offspring children. The estimated number of children created through donor sperm is unclear because, initially, accurate records were not kept. At this time, better efforts are being made to record these births, but the failure of fertility programs and parents to report births makes it difficult to keep accurate records.

As the number of donor-offspring children created through a third party has grown, so has the demand by parents and their donor offspring for literature that would help parents explain to their children, as well as to others, the special circumstances of their child's conception. In fact, for many parents, the most difficult decision is whether to disclose to their children that they were born with the assistance of a third party.

Numerous parents seek out mental health professionals trained in the field of donor conception for guidance on disclosure. They frequently want help with

- how and at what age should they begin to discuss donor conception with their children;
- what age-appropriate language to use;
- how they will feel;
- how their children will react;
- what others will say;
- how to answer questions from their children and others; and
- how to address concerns that it will negatively affect their relationship with their child.⁸

For this reason, the following questions become important: Are there any books for these families? How can families access these books? Where are the books for these children? And if more exist beyond the Grimes and Celcer books mentioned above, how can they be found?

Sex and the Children’s Book

Explaining sex and reproduction to a child is often difficult enough for parents without the added challenges presented in cases of children created with the assistance of a third party.

Knowing that many parents must face the “sex talk” with their child makes the topic of donor offspring even more daunting. And as Anne C. Bernstein, author of *Flight of the Stork: What Children Think (and When) about Sex and Family Building*, states,

although it is seldom easy for parents to know what to tell children about sex and birth and when and how to tell them, the challenge is multiplied when developments in reproductive technology increase the complexities—physiological, technical, psychological, and ethical.⁹

It is natural, then, that parents of donor offspring, given the complexity of their child’s conception, might turn to books to help them explain this subject to their children. Yet most sex instruction books for children only tell one story—that of fertile heterosexual couples being able to make a baby without obstacles. Therefore it is important for parents, in their search for help with disclosure, to keep in mind that sharing information is a process that evolves as children’s needs and their ability to understand grows.

However, as Lisa Jean Moore writes in *Sperm Counts: Overcome by Man’s Most Precious Fluid*, children who do not enter the world in the way that is often represented in children’s books about sex and reproduction “could be misled, confused, or ashamed by reading a book that does not reflect the reality of their conception.”¹⁰

In one of the most popular and well-reviewed series of books

for children on sex education, Robie H. Harris does devote one page to assisted conception: “Sometimes when people want to have a baby, the egg and sperm cell are not able to meet . . . that’s when some people use ways other than sexual intercourse for an egg cell and a sperm cell to meet. In fact, scientists have figured out several ways for an egg cell and a sperm cell to meet.”¹¹ But assisted conception is not given any in-depth treatment.

In fact, children remember only the information that is understandable at each stage of their physical and cognitive development. Young children (ages three and four) usually know that a baby comes from a mother’s body. Most children around age seven can understand more complex concepts; while during adolescence, donor offspring may want more information about the donor to help them better understand their own personalities and appearance. Frequently over time, a shift happens for parents: as the child becomes older and verbal, the language changes as the story is reshaped and owned by the child. This is developmentally favorable because, as Robert D. Emde et al. state in their book, *Revealing the Inner Worlds of Young Children*,

putting together large chunks of memories into a storied whole that makes sense can promote health. But more immediate, everyday experience is also organized in narrative form. We make sense of everyday events for ourselves in relation to others in a way that takes on a story form and is connected to our feelings. In other words, we pull together what is emotionally meaningful to us. We are then able to tell others about our experience, engage their interest, share meanings, and, in so doing, enlarge or “co-construct” new meanings. Affective meaning making in narratives, both for ourselves and for sharing with others, is a vital human endeavor. It is thus a momentous development when a child acquires the capacity for narrative at around three years of age.¹²

Unlike a young child, however, adolescents are able to access information about themselves without their parents’ knowledge or permission, giving a whole new meaning to information, the terms for donor offspring, and their personal search around their identity questions.

The questions remain: What information is there for parents and their donor offspring children? What books are available to them? And what can libraries do to serve this underserved but growing population of children and their parents? Hopefully the list here will serve as a start and at least bring attention to the fact that as many as 10 to 15 percent of reproductive age couples in the U.S. are infertile, which translates to hundreds of thousands of children conceived via ART. As Celcer, a therapist and the author of the *Hope and Will Have a Baby* series points out,

this book collection came into being to give parents a way to manage a task that may at first seem too overwhelming or stressful. It is meant to give couples a way to talk about their desires to become parents and their final success in doing so. It also is meant to give children an appropriate way to start understanding how they became their parents’ offspring.¹³

In our search, we found that most of these children’s books are self-published. None of the books, with one exception, was published by a major publishing house. The exceptions include *Where Did I Really Come From?* and the *Hope and Will* series, which were both published by small, independent presses, and *And Tango Makes Three*, published by Simon and Schuster. A number of the authors—like Celcer, Grimes, and the Donor Conception Network—have published a series of conception books, all with similar characters but differing family templates (i.e., donor sperm, donor egg, single parents, same sex parents, and so on).

Self-publishing

Self-publishing is not just a vanity enterprise. People turn to writing their own books for several reasons—one of which is to fill a niche that may not exist. In the case of donor-offspring books, all fill the authors’ need of creating a family story that expresses the unique qualities and similarities of families created with the help of a third party. Rarely are these books published through a major publishing house.

Although “self-published books are usually shunned by professionals who fear amateurish execution,”¹⁴ a situation that indeed applies to some of these titles, there continues to be a growing number of self-published books by donor-offspring families in their efforts to create understandable and meaningful family stories for themselves.

Researchers have found that families and individuals tend to remember facts more accurately if they encounter them in a story.¹⁵ Through casual family discussions and the use of these books, there evolves a re-sharing of the information over time in the context of the everyday family life, giving parents and children over the years an opportunity to revisit and add facts to the story, thereby making stories helpful to the donor offspring child as well as providing them with a healthy way to view their conception. It is important for parents to remember that the only “correct script” is the one that works for their family.

In regards to the stories in the books presented in the list below, these are in fact stories that are unique to the families who have written them, yet they are valuable because they validate for the children they are written for the fact that their conception was unique and special. And although the stories are unique and may or may not have a place in public libraries, it is important for librarians to know that they exist. As Juris Dilevko and Keren Dali state in “The Self-Publishing Phenomenon and Libraries,”

in public and academic libraries, there has been, for the most part, an awkward silence about how to deal with books from self-publishers, mainly because of the lack of reviews of self-published books in the mainstream reviewing outlets. But, as the nature of publishing changes . . . the issue of whether to collect self-published books assumes importance.¹⁶

Berinstein also states that “you may avoid self-published material today, but sooner or later, you will need to deal with it. And

that’s not a bad thing; some of it is great stuff.”¹⁷ Many donor offspring who were told of their origins from the beginning of their lives have said that they are glad their parents were open with them and always ready to answer their questions. Books like these can be conversation starters for parents and their children.

Parents must remember that their children’s questions about their origins should not be viewed as pathological nor a rejection of the parents, but a normal outgrowth of their need to understand who they are genetically. For many having little or no access to literature on disclosure can often discourage parents from sharing with their children information about their conception. Literature can foster a more open discussion about the aspects of disclosure giving families the tools they need to build meaningful stories about how each person came to be a member of this family.¹⁸

Having helpful, age-appropriate language, understanding the difference between biological and real parents, and addressing these fears, is useful in promoting honest, accurate, and meaningful family stories for these families. Even for parents who feel that it is the right of every individual to have information about their genetic heritage, being able to find books that assist with talking to their children can ease the way for these developmental dialogues to progress normally in the everyday life of a family.

The series *Telling and Talking about Donor Conception*, by Olivia Montuschi from the Donor Conception Network, is designed to guide parents who have built or are building their families with the help of donor conception (sperm, eggs, or embryos).

These guides are divided into four booklets by age group (0–7, 8–11, 12–16, and 17 and older). The series aims to support parents by giving them practical help in starting and continuing to share the story about how their family was made. While these are not booklets that would be read to children, they are helpful in assisting donor-offspring parents in their search to talk with their children about their conception.

It is our hope that the list compiled here will aid librarians—as well as donor offspring and their parents—and other professionals who have found it difficult to access information for this particular population.

The Search

As already mentioned, there are seven children’s titles already in the LC catalog. None of the titles is cataloged in a way to indicate that the books are written to help parents of donor offspring explain to their children their special conception. So how did we find them? We searched the online catalogs of several self-publishing houses, including BookSurge, Trafford, PublishAmerica, iUniverse, Xlibris, Lulu, and Authorhouse. The key words used are listed in table 1, and the subject headings currently employed by LC are listed in table 2.

It is easy to see why it would not be possible for the end user to find these books using a standard subject heading search in a library catalog. No other choice was left but to search Google. But before doing that, we searched Books in Print, WorldCat, and Google Books. We also used the "search inside" feature at Amazon using the same keywords.

The Booklist

The following booklist for children from birth to twelve is arranged alphabetically by author and includes books for children conceived through IVF, sperm donation, egg donation, embryo donation, and traditional and gestational surrogacy. The list is designed to help librarians help patrons with children conceived through these various methods, as well as to help those in the field of reproductive health.

Appleton, Tim. *My Beginnings: A Very Special Story.* Illus. by the author. IFC Resource Centre, 2005.

Out of print and not available for review. Owned by the Vancouver Public Library in Canada and the British Library; available from www.mybeginnings.org. Ages 2–5. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

———. *I'm a Little Frostie.* Illus. by the author. IFC Resource Centre, 1999.

Not owned anywhere but available from www.mybeginnings.org/frostie.htm. Ages 2–5. Subject heading: *Human embryo—transplantation*

Baxter, Nicola. *Our Story: For Children Conceived Through DI Into Single Parent Families.* Illus. by various. Donor Conception Network, 2002. 22p. \$8 (ISBN 0954399501) paper.

A child asks his mother if he ever had a dad and she goes on to explain the different kinds of families there are and how babies are made. Having never met the right man, she explains how "some very kind men" she had never met gave "some of their sperm so women like me could have babies." Each of the books in the series has many of the same simple, stick-like figure illustrations and includes a couple in need of egg donation and a lesbian couple using sperm donation (there is no mention of the eggs and whose eggs were used). Owned by a British public library, the Vancouver Public Library in Canada, the State Library of Western Australia, and the University of Oxford; available from www.dcnetwork.org (The Donor Conception Network). Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Single-parent families; Ovum—transplantation; Children of gay parents; Human embryo—transplantation*

Other books in the series:

———. *Our Story: For Children Conceived Through Egg Donation.* Illus. by various. Donor Conception Network, 2002. 24p. \$8 (ISBN 0954399528) paper.

———. *Our Story: A Book for Young Children about Their Conception through Donor Sperm to Lesbian Parents.* Illus. by various. Donor Conception Network, 2002. 22p. \$8 (ISBN 095439951X) paper.

McKee, Alison. *Our Story: For Children Conceived Through Double or Embryo Donation.* Illus. by Evelyn Short. Donor Conception Network, 2002. 44p. \$8 (ISBN 9780954399535) paper.

Bourne, Kate. *Sometimes It Takes Three to Make a Baby: Explaining Egg Donor Conception to Young Children.* Illus. by Don Thompson. Melbourne IVF, 2002. 24p. \$30 (ISBN 0958190305) paper.

Explaining that "lots and lots of kids begin like this" and written by an infertility counselor, this is the story of a Mum and Dad

Table 1. Keywords and Subject Terms Used in the Search

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| ■ Donor egg, oocyte, or ovum | ■ ART |
| ■ Donor sperm | ■ Surrogacy |
| ■ Donor embryo | ■ Surrogate mother |
| ■ Donor offspring | ■ Gestational carrier |
| ■ Donor conceived | ■ Assisted reproductive technology |
| ■ IVF | ■ Third party reproduction |
| ■ In vitro fertilization | ■ Gamete donation |
| ■ Artificial insemination | ■ Sperm donation |
| ■ Donor insemination | ■ Egg donation |
| ■ Assisted conception | ■ Embryo donation |
| ■ Assisted reproduction | |

Table 2. Subject Headings Currently Employed by LC

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ■ Artificial insemination, Human | ■ Babies |
| ■ Ovum—Transplantation | ■ Genetics |
| ■ Human embryo—transplantation | ■ Surrogate mothers |
| ■ Fertilization in vitro, Human | ■ Sex instruction for children |
| ■ Infertility | ■ Human reproduction |
| ■ Test tube babies | ■ Human reproductive technology |
| | ■ Family |



who tried very hard to have a baby and couldn't. When the doctor said it was because the Mum's eggs didn't work, the Mum and Dad used an egg donor to help them get pregnant. Excellent illustrations. Ages 3–9. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Bryan, Leah. *The Baby Doctor: Explaining IVF to Your Child.* Illus. by Sara Riches. Nuhouse, 2008. 14p. \$37 (ISBN 9780980469615) paper.

Narrated by a little girl, this is the story about how her parents want to give her a baby brother or sister, and about her anxiety over all the treatments her mother has to go through in order to have that baby. One of the goals of the book is to help older siblings understand IVF and reduce their anxiety about it. It also is a helpful book to explain to IVF children, when they are older, how they were conceived. Available from www.nuhousepress.com. Ages 2–9. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Carter, Kristin. *What Matters Most: A Children's Book of Families.* Illus. by the author. Booksurge, 2008. 25p. \$12.99 (ISBN 9781439201534) paper.

Four-year-old Keira questions her dad about whether they are a real family because she does not have a mommy. Her dad assures her that they are a real family by sending her on playdates with a different family each day of the week. She meets several different kinds of families, including ones with two moms, two dads, adopted children, and divorced parents. She comes to realize that families are a group of people who love each other, and that is what matters most. Written and illustrated by the author, a preschool teacher in California, as part of her master's thesis at California Polytechnic State University. Included here because it is narrated through the eyes of a four-year-old girl living with her single dad. Simple and colorful illustrations. For children who spend time with other families. Available from www.booksurge.com. Ages 4–8. Subject heading: *Families*



Celcer, Irénée. *Hope and Will Have a Baby: The Gift of Sperm Donation.* Illus. by Horacio Gatto. Graphite, 2006. 28p. \$19.95 (ISBN 9780975581032) paper.

Written by a mental health professional, the books in this series tell the fictional story of Hope and Will, who have trouble having a baby and need "a little bit of extra help." Told as a bedtime story to their son Matthew, Hope and Will explain the long road it took for Matthew to come into being with the help of donor sperm. Other books in the series tell the same story, but include donor egg, donor embryo, and traditional surrogacy as the methods in which Matthew came into being. The author is planning in 2010 to publish the books in Spanish. Available from www.amazon.com and www.hopeandwill.net. Ages 3–10. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—*

transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation; Surrogate mothers

Other books in the series:

Celcer, Irénée. *Hope and Will Have a Baby: The Gift of Egg Donation.* Illus. by Horacio Gatto. Graphite, 2006. 28p. \$19.95 (ISBN 9780975581018) paper.

———. *Hope and Will Have a Baby: The Gift of Embryo Donation.* Illus. by Horacio Gatto. Graphite, 2006. \$19.95 (9780975581025) paper.

———. *Hope and Will Have a Baby: The Gift of Surrogacy.* Illus. by Horacio Gatto. Graphite, 2006. 32p. \$19.95 (ISBN 097558104X) paper.

Cirisan, Wava. *The Very Special Ducklings: A Very Simple Story about Egg Donation.* Illus. by Stella Schultze. Trafford on Demand, 2004. 16p. \$10.15 (ISBN 141204216X) paper.

This is a story of two duckling families who were friends; one mother duck was able to lay six eggs and one mother duck could not lay any. Seeing that her friend was so sad because she could not lay any eggs, she decided to give two of her six eggs to her eggless friend. This story is for very young children but introduces the concept of egg and embryo donation in a simple way without all the possible questions that could be raised in the future about being a child of a known egg/embryo donor. What is interesting is that it does not discuss the father duckling's role in the decision to receive or donate eggs but highlights the mother duck's. Available from www.trafford.com. Ages 2–5. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation*

Clay, George Anne. *Why Don't I Have a Daddy? A Story of Donor Conception.* Illus. by Lisa Krebs. AuthorHouse, 2008. 15p. \$16.50 (ISBN 9781425995874) paper.

Written by a single mother for her son, this is the story of a lion cub who notices all the animal families around him that have daddies and asks his lion mama why he doesn't have a daddy himself. She goes on to explain how there are different kinds of families and that she chose to have him alone with the help of a donor lion. In a note in the back, a clinical counselor writes, "This book can be a tool to help children work through some of the complexities of their situation." It also attempts to help the donor-conceived child anticipate and answer some of the questions that others may ask about his or her origins. Available from www.amazon.com and www.claystories.com. Ages 2–7. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Single-parent families*

Corning, Meg. *Nick's Story: How One Family Proved that Miracles Can Happen.* Illus. by Deborah J. McGee. Author House, 2008. 12p. \$6.95 (ISBN 9781434372116) paper.

This discussion-starter is narrated by four-year-old Nick who tells the story of how he "didn't grow inside [his] mommy's tummy," but rather inside the tummy of his surrogate mother who happened to be his aunt. The story is

unclear whether the aunt is a traditional surrogate or a gestational carrier for her sister and brother-in-law's embryo. Nice illustrations. Available from www.amazon.com and www.authorhouse.com. Ages 3–9. Subject heading: *Surrogate mothers*

Ellen, Nance. *The Egg Lady*. Illus. by Lon Eric Craven. Bittersweet Books, 2009. 33p. \$16.95 (ISBN 9780615305981) hardcover.

A "loving couple" wishes and hopes for a baby to share their love with but no baby comes. One day a beautiful woman who calls herself "the egg lady" appears at their door and offers to help them have a baby in the form of a basket of eggs. The couple is encouraged to pick one beautiful egg which the Egg Lady assures them will help them have their baby. Includes an "Our Story" section for readers to share with their children. Ages 3–6. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation*. Available from www.bittersweetbooks.net.

Geise, Brenda. *Love Spot: A Story of In Vitro Fertilization Conception*. Illus. by Blair Geise Merkle. AuthorHouse, 2008. 24p. \$10.99 (ISBN 9781438911021) paper.

Told in rhyme, this discussion starter narrated by the mother of a child conceived via IVF tells her child how "the doctor said / you would get a good start / outside my body / close to my heart." It reassures children conceived this way that they were still conceived in love. The author uses the idea of a "love spot" as a metaphor for a baby or the mother's egg. The theme of the book is the idea that through love a child can be created. For a younger child it may be fine but may not be clear to an older child. Available from www.amazon.com and www.authorhouse.com. Ages 2–5. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*

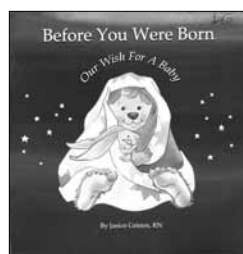


Gordon, Elaine R. *Mommy, Did I Grow in Your Tummy? Where Some Babies Come From*. Illus. by Kathy Clo. EM Greenberg Press, 1992. 28p. \$9.95 (ISBN 0963456105) paper.

This discussion-starter (one of the first books for children on this subject) was written by a clinical psychologist who experienced infertility herself. It tells the story of Sandy and Bob, who try very hard to make a baby, and when they can't, they go to a doctor who tells them that he can help them make a baby "another way." The book goes on to explain all the other ways a baby can be made. Excellent illustrations. Book to be updated and reissued in early 2010 with a new illustrator. Available from www.amazon.com and www.elainegordon.com. Ages 4–12. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human; Surrogate mothers*

Grimes, Janice. *Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Sperm*. Illus. by Mary Moye-Rowley. X, Y, and Me, 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 095502816) paper.

Each book in this series presents a different conception story. Written by a nurse, this is the story of a baby bear who *loves* to hear the story of how he was born. Though mommy and daddy



bear had trouble having him, they were finally able to have him with the help of a "nice man called a donor." Excellent illustrations. High-quality paper. Available from www.xyandme.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation; Children of gay parents; Human embryo—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human; Surrogate mothers*

Other books in the series (all written by Janice Grimes, illustrated by Mary Moye-Rowley, and published by X, Y, and Me):

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Egg. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502824) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of a Frozen Embryo. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502859) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: A Baby Conceived for Female Partners. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502883) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: A Baby Conceived for Male Partners. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502891) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of a Donor Embryo. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502867) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of an IVF Baby. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502808) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Surrogacy. 2005. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0977344134) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of a Gestational Carrier. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502840) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Egg (Gestational Carrier). 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0977344142) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Insemination. 2004. 16 p. \$14.97 (ISBN 097734410X) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Sperm (IVF). 2004. 16 p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502875) paper.

Before You Were Born . . . Our Wish for a Baby: The Story of Donor Insemination. 2004. 16p. \$14.97 (ISBN 0975502816) paper.

Infertility Research Trust. Jessop Hospital for Women. *My Story: For Children Conceived by Donor Insemination*. Illus. by Julie Heath. J.W. Northend, 1991. 36p. \$8 (ISBN 0901100293) paper.

Narrated by a child and written by two mothers who, with their respective husbands, both conceived via artificial insemina-



tion, this book talks about how Daddy's sperm could not reach Mommy's egg. This was one of the first children's books on the subject of donor insemination. Told in very simple language, this is a discussion starter for parents to help explain sperm donation to their children. Illustrations include nudity.

Available from the Donor Conception Network, www.dcnetwork.org. Ages 2–6. Subject heading: *Artificial insemination, Human*

Jover, Carmen Martinez. *Recipes of How Babies are Made*. Illus. by Rosemary Martinez. Self-published, 2007. 32p. \$15 (ISBN 9789709410341) paper.

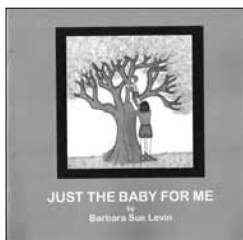
The book uses the metaphor of baking a cake to begin the discussion about baby-making. It describes traditional baby-making as the "classical recipe" for making a baby and then goes on to discuss the various other ways for making a baby when something goes wrong with one of the "ingredients." These include the need for donor sperm, donor egg, donor embryo, or a surrogate mother and goes on to explain that when none of these options works, there is also adoption as an option for having a child. Excellent illustrations. Includes nudity. High-quality binding. Available from www.amazon.com and www.carmenmartinezjover.com. Ages 4–8. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

———. *A Tiny Itsy Bitsy Gift of Life, an Egg Donor Story*. Illus. by Rosemary Martinez. Carmen Martinez Jover, 2005. 24p. \$15 (ISBN 9709410326) paper.

With rabbits as stand-ins for a Mummy and a Daddy, this simple story for very young children tells how Pally and Comet tried to have a baby but couldn't, so they borrowed some "tiny itsy bitsy seeds," a "tiny itsy bitsy gift of life" from another rabbit Mummy to help them grow their baby inside of Pally. It may be difficult to explain to children how the donor knew that seeds were needed and that the gift was so small even though it is so large. Illustrations are excellent. High quality binding. Available from www.amazon.com and www.carmenmartinezjover.com. Ages 2–6. Subject heading: *Ovum—transplantation*

Leicester, Mal. *Making Miracles*. Illus. by Taryn Shrigley. ACeBabes, 2001. 20p. (ISBN 0954186109).

Not available for review. Owned by two public libraries in Great Britain, the University of Oxford, and the British Library and available outside the United States from www.infertilitynetworkuk.com. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*



Levin, Barbara. *Just the Baby for Me*. Illus. by the author. Lulu.com, 2008. 15p. \$17.96 (No ISBN) paper.

This very positive story was written and illustrated by a woman who chose single motherhood when she could not find the right man over a

period of time. This is the story she wrote for her own little girl to explain how she was conceived via sperm donation. This book has no ISBN but is available from www.lulu.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Single-parent families*

Logan, Katrina Kay. *Who's Ivy F I.V.F.?* Illus. by Geoff Logan. Self-published, 2009. 31p. \$19.95 (ISBN 9780980616200) hardcover.

Written by a woman whose nephew was conceived by IVF and who could not find any books that were "neither too scientific nor too clinical" on the subject. It is narrated by a little boy who overhears his parents talk about their "special I.V.F. baby." But, not knowing it is he they are talking about, he has no idea who Ivy F. is. After going on a search to find Ivy and being unable to, he finally asks his parents who Ivy F. is and they explain to him that *he* is their IVF baby. Available from www.ivfbooks.com. Ages 4–6. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*

———. *I'm I.V.F.* Illus. by Geoff Logan. Self-published, 2009. 30p. \$19.95 (ISBN 9780980616217) hardcover.

This sequel to *Who's Ivy F?* is told in rhyme and narrated by the same little boy in the first book. It goes into a little more detail about IVF: "Mum's egg went under the microscope, joined by dad's sperm and lots of hope." This book is a discussion starter as it prompts parents to explain what sperm and egg are. Available from www.ivfbooks.com. Ages 4–6. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Margolis, Amy. *Butterflies & Magical Wings*. Illus. by Natalie Marino. Amy Margolis Publishing, 2006. 34p. \$16.99 (ISBN 0977669203) hardcover.

Using butterflies as a metaphor for people conceiving with help from a third party, Flutter and Milo do a "magic baby butterfly dance" to have a baby of their own. Unfortunately, their magic dance doesn't work until they meet a special butterfly who has "magical spots" that she can lend them. With the help of "scientific technology," they have a baby butterfly of their own. Colorful illustrations. The story is wordy for children under five and would be best suited for ages seven and up. Available from www.butterfliesandmagicalwings.com. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Mileham, Megan. *A Special Beginning*. Illus. by Ryan Voegtle. AuthorHouse, 2009. 26p. \$14.99 (ISBN 9781434391186) paper.

The author, a surrogate mother, wrote this story as a gift to the parents to whom she bore a child. Told as if narrated by the parents themselves, it tells of their love for the woman who agreed to carry their baby. It is unclear whether the child is a result of traditional surrogacy (egg donated by the surrogate) or gestational surrogacy (egg and sperm from the recipient parents). Available from www.amazon.com and www.authorhouse.com. Ages 3–6. Subject heading: *Surrogate mothers*

Miller, Rebecca. *You are a Gift: A Post Infertility-Success Support Tool for Parents*. Illus. by Edie Costa. Trafford, 2003. 21p. \$14 (ISBN 1412012503) paper.

This book for very young children tells how Mommy and

Daddy wanted a baby very much and soon learned that they needed help to have a baby. They then saw a doctor who specialized in making babies. The author speaks in very simple and general terms; describing body parts as broken or missing. She does not describe where eggs and sperm originate or how they end up in the mommy's uterus. Described as a support tool, the book is a starting point for parents over time to add more details to the story of their child's conception and birth. Available from www.trafford.com. Ages 2–4. Subject headings: *Assisted conception; Assisted reproductive technology; Assisted reproduction*

Mizer, Kelly C. Frederick. *Waiting for You.* Illus. by the author. Lulu.com, 2008. 32p. \$26.95 (No ISBN) hardcover.

This is a simple story about waiting for a child to come into your life even long before you're ready to have one. It elicits a feeling that no matter how a child is conceived and arrives in a family (via growing inside the mother or having to travel to another country), that child was meant to be in that family. Every family has one thing in common—waiting for their child. It's included here because it touches on the fact that not all babies come from inside their mothers. Excellent illustrations. Available from www.lulu.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Childbirth; Pregnancy; Birth*

Nadel, Carolina. *Mommy, Was Your Tummy Big?* Illus. by the author. Mookind, 2006. 24p. \$19.95 (No ISBN) paper.

Written and illustrated by the author, a doctor who had fertility problems. This story begins when a baby elephant asks his mommy elephant if her tummy was big when he was in it and how he got there. She begins to explain that after several visits to the doctor and several attempts at pregnancy, the doctors helped her find a "special lady" whose eggs helped her become pregnant. The story's purpose is to help parents explain IVF and egg donation to their children. The author wrote a second book with the same characters and similar illustrations—a little elephant asks his daddy if his mommy's tummy was big and how he got there. The daddy elephant goes on to explain that mommy needed to borrow a "part" (sperm) from someone else in order to have him. Colorful illustrations. High quality binding. This book has no ISBN and is available from www.amazon.com and www.carolinanadel.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation*

———. *Daddy, Was Mommy's Tummy Big?* Illus. by the author, 2007. Mookind, 2006. 24p. \$19.95 (No ISBN) paper. Ages 2–5. Subject heading: *Artificial Insemination, Human*

Napier, Juliet. *Super Special Sisters: A Story about the Miracle of In Vitro Fertilization.* Illus. by Sheila G. Johnson. Trafford, 2006. 32p. \$14.77 (ISBN 1412078660) paper.

Written by a mother and librarian who conceived her second child, a son, after four attempts at IVF, it is narrated by her older son who is six to eight years old at the time of the telling. The story is written for older siblings to help them understand that some families may take longer to have a family. The story is realistic in that it explains that medical help may be needed to help a couple conceive, and even that may not always work. The story is altered in that the parents in the story conceive

with fraternal twin girls, the "super special sisters" that their older brother is talking about. Includes a child's glossary and a frequently-asked-questions section. Ages 6–11. Subject heading: *Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Nathalie, Rozanne. *Our Beautiful Work of A.R.T.* Illus. by Jennifer Lofchie and Bruce Sulzberg. Beaver's Pond, 2002. 13p. \$19.95 (ISBN 1931646767) hardcover.

Told in rhyme, Mommy and Daddy couldn't make a baby on their own, so they went to the doctor and the doctor helped them. Although cataloged as "Fertilization in vitro, Human," baking metaphors rather than technical explanations are used as symbols for how to make a baby. High-quality paper and binding. Colorful illustrations. Available from www.amazon.com and www.tellyourchild.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Ovum—transplantation; Human embryo—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Nathalie, Rozanne et al. *A Part Was Given and an Angel Was Born.* Illus. by Jennifer Lofchie and Bruce Sulzberg. Beaver's Pond, 2002. 15p. \$19.95 (ISBN 1931646783) hardcover.

Told in rhyme, this story explains how Mommy had to use a "part" from a "very special lady with a heart" in order to make her baby. Again metaphors are used as symbols for baby-making ingredients. The story is told very simply for young children but may be unclear for children over six years of age. Colorful illustrations. High-quality binding. Available from www.amazon.com and www.tellyourchild.com. Ages 2–6. Subject heading: *Ovum—transplantation*

———. *From Out of My Body Your Soul Did Grow.* Illus. by Jennifer Lofchie and Bruce Sulzberg. Beaver's Pond, 2002. 15p. \$19.95 (ISBN 1931646775) hardcover.

Told in rhyme, this is the story of how a couple could not carry their own child, so a gestational carrier, a "wonderful lady with a heart made of gold" carried their baby in her own tummy. The story is about surrogacy, but it is left unclear whether the egg was from the surrogate, an egg donor, or the couple themselves. Colorful illustrations. Available from www.amazon.com and www.tellyourchild.com. Ages 2–6. Subject heading: *Surrogate mothers*

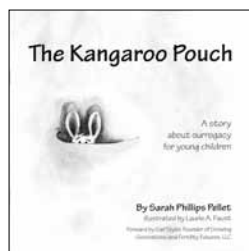
N.S.W. Infertility Social Workers Group. *How I Began: The Story of Donor Insemination.* Illus. by Merri Spencer. Fertility Society of Australia, 1988. 28p. (No ISBN), available online.

When Mummy and Daddy try to make a baby and can't, they go to the doctor. After many tests they discover that Daddy's sperm couldn't make a baby, so the doctor explains donor insemination to them as their option. For older children (includes nudity and a detailed description of lovemaking). Available online at www.infertilitynetwork.org/files/HowIbegan.pdf. Subject heading: *Artificial insemination, Human*

Packard, Robbi Anne. *Two Daddies . . . And Me.* Illus. by Lori Ann McElroy. AuthorHouse, 2009. 23p. \$11.10 (ISBN 978148955582) paper.

Told in rhyme, this story is written by a woman who was the surrogate mother to a little girl born for a gay male couple. With

colorful illustrations and few words, it is for very young children describing a day in the life of this little girl with her two dads, emphasizing that they are a family. The story is not clear about whether the author is a traditional or gestational surrogate and any of the other genetic questions regarding paternity. Ages 2–4. Subject headings: *Surrogate mothers; Children of gay parents*



Pellet, Sarah Phillips. *The Kangaroo Pouch: A Story about Gestational Surrogacy for Young Children.* Illus. by Laurie A. Faust. Trafford, 2007. 24p. (ISBN 1425105572) paper.

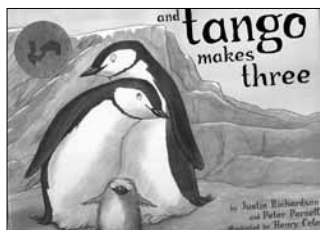
This discussion-starter is narrated by Oliver the Kangaroo who lives happily with his parents and brother. He

tells the story of how his mother one day had the idea to help another family have a baby by carrying that baby in her kangaroo pouch. It was written by a mother to help explain her decision to become a gestational surrogate to her children. Very nice illustrations. Available from www.amazon.com. Ages 2–6. Subject heading: *Surrogate mothers*

Poston, Karen. *A Baby for Mabel and Frederick.* Illus. by the author. Lulu.com, 2005. 20p. \$13.25 (ISBN 9781411660243) paper.

Emma's mom is a gestational carrier, and Emma has mixed feelings about it, sometimes wishing that the baby her mother is carrying was her new brother or sister, worrying about all the doctor visits her mother has to make, and also sometimes having to explain to her friends that her mother is carrying the baby for another family. This story is narrated by the daughter of a gestational carrier and is also available in a version narrated by a boy as well as a coloring book version. This book is available from www.lulu.com. Ages 4–8. Subject heading: *Surrogate mothers*

Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three.* Illus. by Henry Cole. Simon & Schuster, 2005. 28p. \$16.99 (ISBN 9780689878459) hardcover.



Central Park Zoo penguins Roy and Silo act like their male/female counterparts and do everything together. Watching the other penguin pairs build a nest, they too build a nest, but unlike the other penguins, their nest remains empty until one

day their zookeeper finds an egg that needs to be cared for and brings it to their nest, where it eventually hatches, and Roy and Silo become parents together. Wonderful and clear illustrations. Included on this list because this story can be used as a metaphor for embryo donation and for same sex couples. Held widely and available widely. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Human embryo—transplantation; Children of gay parents; Surrogate mothers*

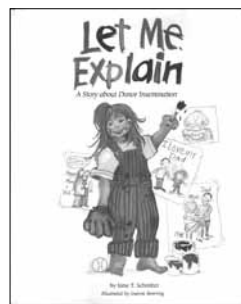
Roling, Kerry. *A Most Precious Gift: A Story of Egg Donation.* Lulu.com, 2009. 44p. \$17.68 (No ISBN) hardcover.

Told in rhyme, this blank-page book created to “support [the]

child to draw their own illustrations or attach photographs,” is a long poem that tells the story of a fairy godmother who donated her egg so that another couple could have a child, “But your fairy god mum, gave a generous gift that’s true / A perfect little tiny egg, that helped us to make you.” Available from www.lulu.com. Ages 4–8. Subject heading: *Ovum—transplantation*

Schaffer, Patricia. *How Babies and Families Are Made: (There Is More than One Way).* Illus. by Suzanne Corbett. Tabor Sarah, 1988. 52p. \$7.95 (ISBN 0935079173) paper.

This is the first sex book ever published for children that mentions artificial insemination. This book includes a description of how babies are conceived naturally as well as how they are made in the cases of IVE, donor sperm, and adoption. The book also discusses pregnancy, miscarriage, fetal death, labor, types of delivery, prematurity, and disabilities. The author also discusses kinship in families and terminology for birth parents, step-parents, half-siblings, adopted parents, and biological parents. Language is straightforward and there are drawings in black and white with nudity, body parts, and a couple hugging in bed to represent sexual intercourse. Book could be updated to include donor egg, embryo, and surrogacy. Available from www.amazon.com. Ages 5–12. Subject headings: *Human reproduction; Sex instruction for children; Families*



Schnitter, Jane T. *Let Me Explain: A Story about Donor Insemination.* Illus. by Joanne Bowring. Perspectives, 1995. 32p. \$14 (ISBN 0944934129) hardcover.

One of the earlier books published on donor insemination for families with a mother and father. A little girl narrates the story of how alike she and her dad

are despite the fact that they don't look alike because she was conceived via sperm donation. It includes an introduction to genes, sperm, and ova. The book is about the child's thoughts on her origins and the questions that she is able to ask her parents about her donor. She even shares with her readers, “I think though, that I'm always going to wonder a little about what he is like.” She later goes on to share the fact that she does not feel any different from others, and that being made by a donor is just who she is. These reflections could be helpful for children who may find it hard to explain their background to others. In limited supply at www.perspectivespress.com. Ages 5–12. Subject headings: *Artificial insemination, Human; Father and child; Genetics*

Schwein-Coff, Traci K. *Before You Were Born.* Illus. by James Vaughn Jackson. AuthorHouse, 2006. 30p. \$11.40 (ISBN 9781420892260) paper.

This discussion starter tells the story of how Mommy and Daddy couldn't get pregnant and needed the help of an egg donor. Available from www.amazon.com and www.authorhouse.com. Ages 2–6. Subject headings: *Ovum—transplantation; Fertilization in vitro, Human*

Sherwin, Ali. *The Adventures of Princess Mommy.* Illus. by the author. 13th Moon, 2009. 30p. \$19.99 (ISBN 9780981955910) paper.

Using a fairytale template, the author, a single mom, describes meeting several potential mates. She describes in great detail why she rejects each one as a potential mate and dad to make a baby. Still wanting a child, she obtains "some magic seeds to plant in her eggs" so that she can make a baby. Available from 13thmoon.net/html/mommy.html. Ages 4–12. Subject headings: *Single-parent families; Artificial insemination, Human*

Smith, Holly Jean. *My Parent(s) Made Me in a Special Way: With Love and the Help of Donor Insemination.* Illus. by Janet Boley. H.J. Smith, 1996. 8p. (ISBN 9780968063309).

Subject heading: *Artificial insemination, Human*

Stamm, Linda. *Phoebe's Family: A Story about Egg Donation.* Illus. by Joan Clipp. Linda Stamm, 2003. 16p. (No ISBN) available online.

Written by a clinical psychologist, Mama loves to tell eight-year-old Phoebe the story of how Phoebe came to be with the help of an anonymous egg donor. This book is for children who have a mommy and daddy. The author understands that children will often be confused by the discussion about eggs and sperm, and for that reason she raises and answers some of the questions about egg and sperm that a child of that age might have. Younger children might not understand some of the terminology used here, but it is a wonderful discussion-starter for explaining egg donation to children. This is a good starter book when talking about the donor and the feelings that the child may have about not looking like her mommy but still being like her mommy. This book has no ISBN and is available online at www.infertilitynetwork.org/files/in_phoebes_family.pdf. Ages 4–9. Subject heading: *Ovum—transplantation*

Wickham, Narelle. *Where Did I Really Come From?: Sexual Intercourse, DI, IVE, GIFT, Pregnancy, Birth, Adoption and Surrogacy.* Illus. by Ingrid Urh. Learn to Include, 2008. 32p. \$19.95 (ISBN 9780646496153) paper.

First published in 1992 and now in its second edition, this is the first sex instruction book for children that mentions same-sex parenting as well as the various assisted reproductive technologies. Although the book includes all aspects of alternative family building, none is explained in any detail. Young children will find the language difficult and older children may need more details. Includes nudity. Available from www.amazon.com and www.hotkey.net.au/~learn_to_include. Ages 6–12. Subject headings: *Children of gay parents; Artificial insemination, Human; Fertilization in vitro, Human; Surrogate mothers; Human reproduction; Sex instruction for children; Adoption* ☺

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