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Children bear the promise
of a better world

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Are they getting
the right start in life?

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Our Concern

Every Child



The defense of democracy rests that every child

What can you do to help?

Know what good maternity care is, and see that such knowledge reaches every family in your community.

If you are expecting a baby in your family and do not know how to secure good care for the mother, ask your physician, a public-health nurse, or your city or county health department to advise you. See that some organization to which you belong studies what your community does to provide good maternity and infant care.

Join with other citizens in getting support and qualified staff for public maternal and child-health services, for privately supported health agencies, and for hospitals.

If you are not sure how to help, write your State health department or the United States Children's Bureau for suggestions.

The following publications can be obtained by writing the Children's Bureau:

Publication No. 4. Prenatal Care.
Publication No. 8. Infant Care.
Publication No. 143. Child Management.
Publication No. 202. Are You Training
Your Child To Be Happy?
Publication No. 261. The Child-Health
Conference; suggestions for organiza-
tion and procedure.

Folder 1. The Expectant Mother.
Folder 8. Breast Feeding.
Folder 9. Keeping the Well Baby Well.
Folder 16. The Healthy, Well-Nourished
Baby, Birth to 1 Year.
Folder 19. Mother! Nurse Your Baby!
Folder 20. Feeding Your Baby.

Baby's Daily Time Cards.
Better Care for Mother and Child.
The Premature Baby.

The right start in life means—

1. A healthy father and mother.
2. Good care for the mother through the prenatal period—
In the home, including planned to meet the needs of mother and baby, sunshine, exercise, rest, and freedom from worry.
Through regular medical supervision and dental care from private practitioners, prenatal clinic or health center. Advice from public-health nurse will help mother to do what the doctor suggests.
3. Birth in a hospital equipped with maternity services or under conditions at home.
4. Medical attendance of the mother when the baby is born and during the lying-in period. This should be given by an obstetrician when necessary.
5. Care of the mother and child throughout the lying-in period by a nurse or by a person supervised by a qualified nurse.
6. Medical supervision of the child from birth. This should be given by a doctor specially trained in the care of babies or by a qualified family doctor who can consult such a specialist when necessary.
7. Special medical and nursing care for the premature baby.

requires have the right start in life

What should the community provide?

A sufficient number of doctors well trained in obstetrics and pediatrics.

A local health department, under a full-time public-health officer, well staffed with doctors, sanitary engineers, and public-health nurses.

Health centers—

Where prospective parents can be examined and advised by a doctor.

Where mothers can obtain medical supervision and instruction before and after their babies are born.

Home-visiting service by public-health nurses.

A welfare department prepared to give adequate assistance to needy families.

Medical, dental, nursing, and hospital care at public expense for families unable to afford these services.

A hospital that provides—

Special care for maternity patients, including separate wards, delivery room, and nursing care.

An obstetrician on the staff. He should be available for consultation with other physicians.

Facilities for isolation of infected mothers or babies.

Nurseries and equipment for adequate care of newborn babies, including those born prematurely.

A child specialist (pediatrician) on the staff. He should be available for consultation with other physicians.

How do we fall short of giving our children the right start in life?

Of every 1,000 infants born alive, 47 die before they reach the age of 1 year, and 29 of these die in the first month after birth.

We are saving the lives of many more mothers than formerly, but we still lose 38 mothers from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth for every 10,000 infants born alive.

One-tenth of the babies in the United States are born with no physician in attendance.

One-fifth of the 3,072 counties in the United States do not have any hospital within the county.

Many hospitals are not properly equipped or staffed to give safe care to mothers and their babies.

One-half of the 3,072 counties do not have full-time county health units.

One-third of the counties do not have any county public-health-nursing services under the supervision of the State health department.

Four-fifths do not have regularly scheduled prenatal clinics conducted by physicians.

In many defense communities babies cannot at present have the right start in life because of housing shortages and lack of sufficient doctors, nurses, and health-department personnel.



***Our Nation is mobilizing its resources
for the welfare of children
as an important part of national defense:***

To coordinate health, welfare, medical, nutrition, recreation, and related services bearing on the defense emergency, the President of the United States has established by executive order the

***Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services,
Paul V. McNutt, Director.***

To assure effective coordination of Federal relations with State and local governments engaged in defense activities, to facilitate constructive civilian participation in the defense program, and for other purposes, the President has established the

***Office of Civilian Defense,
Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Director.***

The *Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor* is responsible for promoting the welfare of children at all times through—

Studies and advisory services	Child-labor administration
Cooperation with State agencies	Bulletins, leaflets, and radio talks

The **Chief of the Children's Bureau, Katharine F. Lenroot**, has been designated child-welfare consultant to the Office of Defense Health and Welfare Services, and the Assistant to the Chief, **Charles I. Schottland**, has been made liaison officer with that office. The Associate Chief of the Children's Bureau, **Dr. Martha M. Eliot**, has been designated liaison officer with the Office of Civilian Defense. Other Federal, State, and local agencies are working for the promotion of child welfare, in cooperation with many privately supported organizations.

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The Defense of Children Series:

“CHILDREN BEAR THE PROMISE OF A BETTER WORLD” includes:

1. What Are We Doing To Defend Them?
2. Are We Safeguarding Those Whose Mothers Work?
3. Are They Getting the Right Start in Life?
4. Have They the Protection of Proper Food?
5. Are We Defending Their Right to Health?
6. Their Defense Is the Security They Find at Home.
7. Their Education Is Democracy's Strength.
8. Through Play They Learn What Freedom Means.
9. Our Nation Does Not Need Their Toil.
10. Are We Helping Those With Special Needs?
11. Protect Them From Harmful Community Influences.

“RAISING A PRESIDENT,” a radio program on defense of children, prepared by the Children's Bureau, is presented by NBC every Monday at 11:30 a. m. E. S. T. (Blue Network)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ● CHILDREN'S BUREAU

Defense of Children Series No. 3

For sale by Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. - - Price \$3 per hundred.

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