Show and Tell

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ABSTRACT

In this column, a childbirth educator shares a humorous story about a second grader's show-and-tell description of her brother's home birth.

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Nothing makes me smile more than readers who take the time to share a funny anecdote from their own childbirth education practice. Recently, I received a story, “Middle Wife,” credited to an anonymous teacher. The story is about a second grader's animated account of a home birth. I apologize for being unable to locate the original source, but I thought you would enjoy the teacher's recap.

During a typical show-and-tell session, Erica—a very bright, very outgoing child—took her turn and waddled up to the front of the class with a pillow stuffed under her sweater. She held up a snapshot of an infant.

“This is Luke, my baby brother, and I'm going to tell you about his birthday. First, Mom and Dad made him as a symbol of their love, and then Dad put a seed in my Mom's stomach, and Luke grew in there. He ate for nine months through an umbrella cord. Then, about two Saturdays ago, my mom starts saying and going, ‘Oh, oh, oh, oh!’ ” Erica put her hand behind her back and groaned as she continued. “Mom walked around the house for, like, an hour, ‘Oh, oh, oh!’ ”

To our amazement, Erica continued groaning and began mimicking a hysterical duck walk as she went on. “My dad called the middle wife. She delivers babies, but she doesn't have a sign on the car like the Domino's man. They got my mom to lie down in bed like this.” Sitting down, Erica put her back against the wall and brought her knees up. “And then, pop!” she exclaimed. “My mom had this bag of water she kept in there in case he got thirsty, and it just blew up and spilled all over the bed, like psshhheew!

“Then the middle wife starts saying ‘push, push’ and ‘breathe, breathe.’ They started counting, but never even got past ten. All of a sudden, out comes my brother. He was covered in yucky stuff. They all said it was from Mom's play center, so there must be a lot of stuff inside there.”

You can imagine the teacher's reaction and the story the other children would be telling over dinner that evening!

Thanks for sharing. Think about sending your silliest encounters the next time a middle wife clamps the umbrella cord and delivers the play center!

DEB GAULDIN is a childbirth educator who travels nationally presenting keynotes and workshops. Her CDs and tapes contain humor and songs about pregnancy, childbirth, and the adjustment to parenthood. For booking information or to purchase Deb's recordings, call 800-682-2347 or visit her Web site (www.debgauldin.com).

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