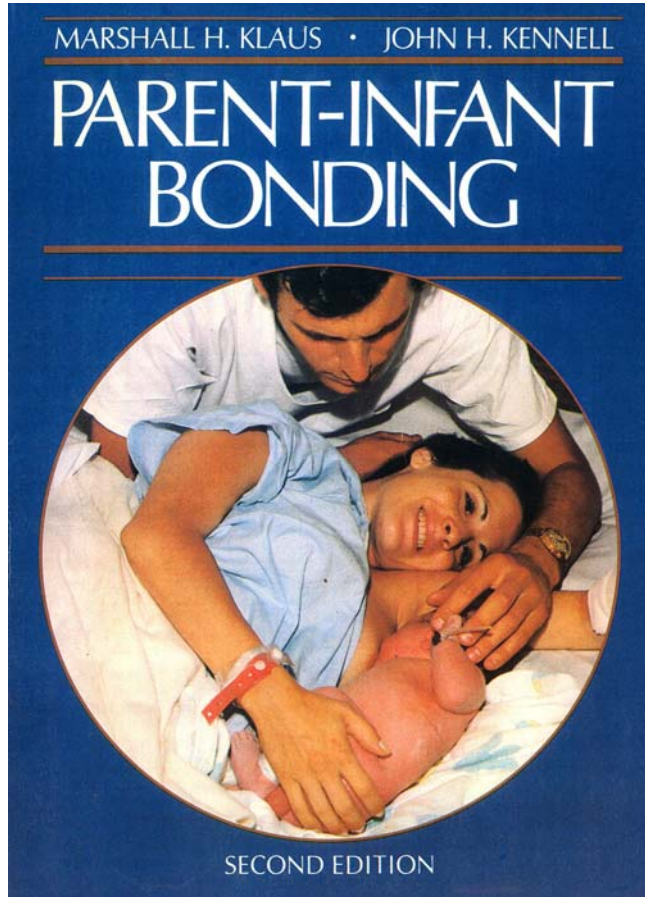


## Book of The Century



**Marshall H. Klaus and John H. Kennell. (1976/1982). *Parent-Infant Bonding*. Second Edition. The C.V. Mosby Company. St. Louis \* Toronto \* London**

The biomedical perspectives on bonding. "It might be argued that the length of breastfeeding is not a valid assessment of the strength of bond between mother and infant, since it is culture bound"; and "Too many variables influence a woman's desire to continue breastfeeding to make it a valid assessment of bonding. A woman who discontinues breastfeeding to return to work for weeks after delivery to support her family can be just as bonded as a breastfeeding Swedish mother who has a nine-month, government-paid maternity leave" (p.49). "Could 5 minutes be long enough to affect the mother's later behavior with her infant?" (p. 51).

### Additional Commentary

"MacFarlane and associates (1978) asked 97 Oxford mothers, "When did you first feel love for your baby? The replies were as follows: during pregnancy, 41%; at birth, 24%; first week, 27%; and after the first week, 8%." (p.53).

A reality check is needed for the biomedical profession regarding what maternal-infant bonding is all about. Cognitive Bonding (one-way) clearly begins before birth, which involve different sensory systems than postnatal somatosensory bonding. The fetus does not have capacity for cognitive functioning. Breastfeeding bonding of 2.5 years or longer is necessary to optimize brain-behavioral development for peaceful, non-violent and egalitarian behaviors. See following websites.

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/ttf/article.html>

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/pppj/article.html>

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/politics-trust.pdf>

<http://www.byronchild.com/arts23.htm>

<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/333/7575/0>