

# **NURSERY ETHICS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649659692

Nursery Ethics by Florence Hull Winterburn

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Cover @ 2017

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**FLORENCE HULL WINTERBURN**

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BY

FLORENCE HULL) WINTERBURN  
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NEW YORK  
THE MERRIAM COMPANY  
67 FIFTH AVENUE



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TO  
My Father.

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## PREFACE.

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IT is about six years ago now since the papers forming the nucleus of this little book were written. Much of the work was done with two little faces gazing wonderingly at me from either side of my desk, and whatever value it has is owing as much to the inspiration drawn from that living child presence as from the long years of study and observation which preceded the effort whose results are now offered to the thoughtful public.

The principle underlying every line of this book is that of justice to children. The idea that there should be a code of laws for the nursery as there is for communities may be a novel one to persons accustomed to entire unrestraint in their control of their children. If arbitrary or capricious methods were always attended

with happy results, and if by the exercise of instinct only parents were able to rear their children with perfect satisfaction, then they would be justified in declining to spend time reflecting upon their duties or studying into the philosophy of parenthood.

But while there is scarcely one among us who, upon looking backward, cannot refer to some error in his own early training certain misadventures of his later life, there would seem to be reason why we should try to find out the perfect method, if there is one, and hold that up to ourselves as our working ideal.

The endeavor to find this ideal and to present it intelligibly to the many conscientious, earnest parents who wish to do their best for their children without quite seeing the way clear before them, has been my guiding motive through all my work for the past half dozen years. As editor of the magazine "CHILDHOOD" and as a member of several parents' societies I have been brought into personal contact with many of those it is my desire to reach in this book. And if

through this they should receive an answer to questions that have perplexed them ; if their way should be made a little easier, and the path of childhood brighter and happier, I shall be thankful and content.

NEW YORK, *Aug.* 30, 1895.