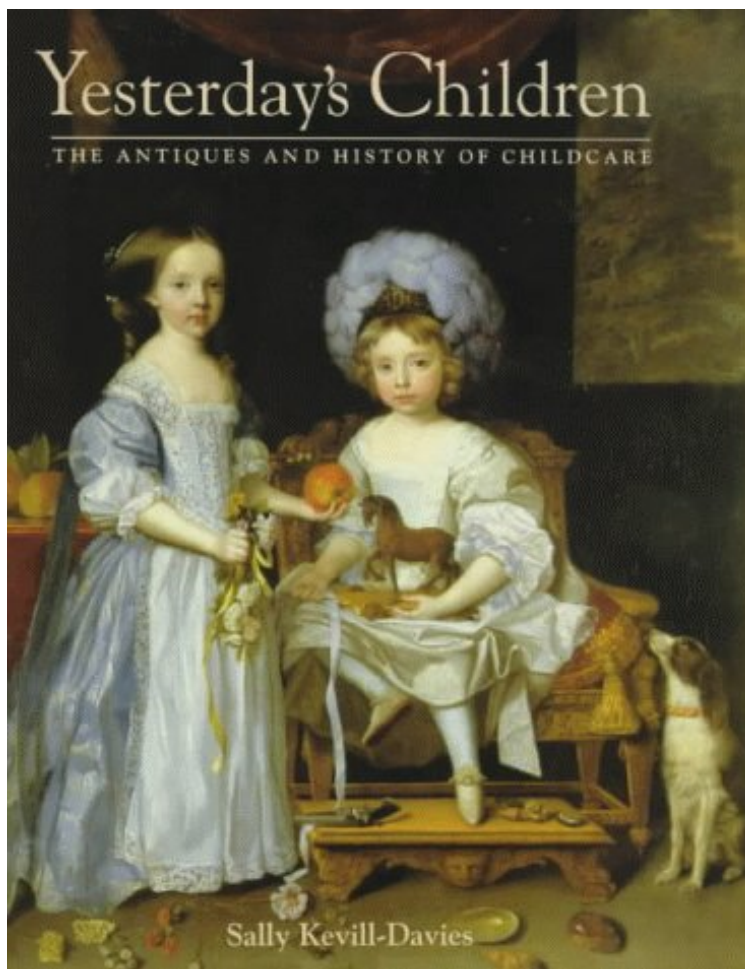


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Yesterday's Children: The Antiques and History of Childcare

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Describes changing trends in childcare throughout history. Just as the attitudes of society towards children and their upbringing have fluctuated violently with each generation, the everyday objects used by mothers and nurses have

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From Library Journal This social history of the last 400 years of British and American childbirth and childcare practices presents a strange and sometimes grim picture of what should have been a time of innocence. The author, formerly of Sotheby's auction house, is herself the product of a rigid and properly British upbringing--although we can only hope that she was not bound to a board and hung on a wall, as 18th-century babies were. Many of the household and medical utensils illustrated, taken from collections as diverse as the Victoria Albert Museum, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and numerous private collections, seem quaint or curious in the 1990s but were considered to be state of the art in centuries past. Because of the author's extensive coverage of nursery and playroom decoration, costumes, and christening and death rituals, this book would be invaluable to designers of theater sets and costumes. Antique collectors will appreciate the very good index. And all new parents and persons with vivid memories of their own childhood will be charmed by this account.- Margarete Gross, Chicago P.L. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.