1. Record Nr. UNINA9910452426103321 Autore Baumgarten Elisheva Titolo Mothers and children: Jewish family life in medieval Europe // Elisheva Baumgarten Princeton, New Jersey:,: Princeton University Press,, 2004 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-4008-4926-8 Edizione [Course Book] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (295 p.) Collana Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World;; 51 Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the ancient to the modern world Disciplina 306.874/3/08992404 Soggetti Childbirth - Religious aspects - Judaism Motherhood - Religious aspects - Judaism Judaism - Customs and practices Parent and child - Religious aspects - Judaism Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Rev. ed. of author's thesis (Ph. D.--ha-Universi£ah ha-Ivrit bi-Note generali Yerushalayim, 2000) originally titled: Imahot i-yeladim ba-Æevrah ha-Yehudit bi-Yeme ha-Benayim. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages [243]-268) and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments --Abbreviations -- Introduction -- Chapter One. Birth -- Chapter Two. Circumcision and Baptism -- Chapter Three. Additional Birth Rituals --Chapter Four. Maternal Nursing and Wet Nurses: Feeding and Caring for Infants -- Chapter Five. Parents and Children: Competing Values --Conclusions -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index This book presents a synthetic history of the family--the most basic Sommario/riassunto building block of medieval Jewish communities--in Germany and northern France during the High Middle Ages. Concentrating on the special roles of mothers and children, it also advances recent efforts to write a comparative Jewish-Christian social history. Elisheva Baumgarten draws on a rich trove of primary sources to give a full portrait of medieval Jewish family life during the period of childhood

from birth to the beginning of formal education at age seven.

Illustrating the importance of understanding Jewish practice in the

context of Christian society and recognizing the shared foundations in both societies, Baumgarten's examination of Jewish and Christian practices and attitudes is explicitly comparative. Her analysis is also wideranging, covering nearly every aspect of home life and childrearing, including pregnancy, midwifery, birth and initiation rituals, nursing, sterility, infanticide, remarriage, attitudes toward mothers and fathers, gender hierarchies, divorce, widowhood, early education, and the place of children in the home, synagogue, and community. A richly detailed and deeply researched contribution to our understanding of the relationship between Jews and their non-Jewish neighbors, Mothers and Children provides a key analysis of the history of Jewish families in medieval Ashkenaz.