Record Nr. UNINA9910824097303321 Autore Mahler Margaret S. **Titolo** The psychological birth of the human infant: symbiosis and individuation / / by Margaret S. Mahler Pubbl/distr/stampa Boca Raton, FL:,: Routledge, an imprint of Taylor and Francis,, [2018] ©1985 **ISBN** 0-429-92191-8 0-429-90768-0 0-429-48291-4 1-283-11792-4 9786613117922 1-84940-032-6 Edizione [First edition.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (321 p.) Collana Karnac classics Disciplina 155.4 155.422 Soggetti Infant psychology Symbiosis (Psychology) Separation-individuation Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali First published in Great Britain 1975 by Hutchinson & Co (Publishers) Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Nota di bibliografia pt. 1. Separation-individuation in perspective -- pt. 2. On human Nota di contenuto symbiosis and the subphases of the separation-individuation process -- pt. 3. Five children's subphase development -- pt. 4. Summary and reflections. Sommario/riassunto 'The biological birth of the human infant and the psychological birth of the individual are not coincident in time. The former is a dramatic, observable, and well-circumscribed event; the latter a slowly unfolding intra psychic process. Thus begins this highly acclaimed book in which the author and her collaborators break new ground in developmental psychology and present the first complete theoretical statement of the author's observations on the normal separation-individuation process. Separation and individuation are presented in this major work as two

complementary developments. Separation is described as the child's emergence from a symbiotic fusion with the mother, while individuation consists of those achievements making the child's assumption of his own individual characteristics. Each of the subphases of separation-individuation is described in detail, supported by a wealth of clinical observations which trace the tasks confronting the infant and his mother as he progresses towards achieving his own individuality.