

## Incomplete Instructions

Remember not to give the baby  
ice cubes, fish with bones. And no  
steak—unless it's cut up small.  
Don't let the rubber nipples  
boil dry. They catch fire. I can't  
tell you exactly when a diaper  
needs changing. Err on the side  
of *more often*. When in doubt,  
ask Betsy. She's right  
across the street and usually  
home. Her boys are handsome  
and polite which is, after all,  
a sign of good parenting. And if  
the baby grows into a kid  
who easily climbs trees  
and tall fences, don't worry—  
the ones who climb highest  
are able to get down  
by themselves.

One last thing—and this  
will be hardest—take time  
every day to lay aside the bother  
of the world. Let your son  
make up the game, name  
the heroes and let him  
be in charge of when  
playing ends. It won't  
be long. He'll grow tall, play  
less and, someday, scale  
a last fence leaving you  
on your own with time  
to practice what you learned  
from him.