

# I Enter the World

When you were born, a unique individual was born. Find out about the first months in the life of this individual – from birth until about age two.

Of course you won't remember much, if anything. You will need to talk to relatives, friends and neighbors who knew you then. You will need to consult photo albums and scrapbooks and perhaps your baby book, if you have one.

## **Getting Started**

Choose from the following questions to help you write:

1. When and where were you born? Do you know anything about your birth? (Was it early in the morning? Did you take a long time to arrive? Was your father present at the delivery? etc.) How did your parents announce your birth?
2. If you were adopted, tell about your first meeting with your parents. Did they pick you up at the hospital or perhaps meet the plane bringing you to this country? How much time did your parents have to prepare for your arrival? What else do you know about your adoption?
3. What kind of baby were you? What can other family members tell about your first year or two?
4. Tell about your name. (You may want to consult a book of names to help you with this question.) Do you know anything about your surname and/or its history? Why were you given your first name? Does it have any special meaning? Do you have any nicknames? Do you like or dislike your name or your nicknames? What other names were your parents considering for you? What would your name have been if you had been born of the opposite sex?
5. Where do you fit among your brothers and sisters (third daughter, second son, etc.)? If you have older brothers and sisters, how did they feel about your arrival?
6. Did you have a special stuffed animal, toy or blanket when you were little? If so, describe it.
7. When did you first talk? What was your first word? Who heard it?
8. What were your favorite poems, songs, games, or bedtime stories?
9. Some people are unable to find out about and/or write about their early years. If you are one of these individuals, imagine what your early years might have been like, or how you wish they had been. Then use the questions above to help you create a fictional background for yourself. (Be sure to indicate that you are writing fiction.)