Rosemary A. Joyce's article, “Girling the girl and boying the boy: the production of adulthood in ancient Mesoameria”, focused on the process in which Aztec children were prepped for their adult lives. Aztecs stressed tradition in the raising of their children. Children participated in rituals that involved lots of repetition to drive home traditional ways. Aztecs separated people into three gender categories: “potentially reproductive male, potentially reproductive female, and celibate” (78). The differences between these genders were stressed, starting in the early teenage years.

However, Aztecs seemed to have believed in clearly defined gender roles and began to press these ideas about their children from an early age. After a ritual bathing ceremony, infants were dressed in small versions of adult clothes and had objects placed around them based on their sex: “a little shield, a little bow, little arrows...his little loincloth, his little cape” for a boy and “the spinning whorl, the weaving sword, the reed basket, the spinning bowl, the skeins, the shuttle, her little skirt” for a girl (80). This is evidence that Aztec gender roles dictated someone's dress and activities in life. Some children, however, were promised to the temple at birth, which meant a life of chastity and categorical separation from other boys and girls.

At around four years old, Aztec children participated in their first initiation ritual when they had their ears pierced. At age seven, physical punishments began, in an effort to shape them into adult who could withstand hardships. Those who had been pledged to religious life would have had ritual scarification on their hips and chest in order to mark their roles in the community.
Janssen and Janssen's chapters address a similar topic to Joyce in their discussion of the ways in which Egyptian children grew up. A major difference between childhoods of these two cultures is that Egyptians did not seem to have initiation rituals based on age. Egyptian children's transition into adulthood also seems to have started early, as with the Aztecs, as they were made to help their parents with work and raising younger siblings at an early age. An issue I had with both works was the lack of explanation of their sources. Sometimes, these authors seem to make conclusion based on evidence that they do not share with the reader.