

Amri

Leaning forward for balance
She tilts her head and
Peeks out her eye corners
With an expression beyond
Her seven months' cognitive
Development. A Mona Lisa smile
For a moment while the rhythms
Of grown-up conversation swirl
Around her tilted head.
Suddenly,
 the rhythm breaks --
Voices are transposed to mother-ease --
Eighteen mothers gathered around
Cooing, goo-gooing, and the da Vinci
Smile breaks out into full Gerber,
Accompanied by a gurgling chuckle
 that goes down like smooth Scotch.

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