Worksheet 1.10.7 Understanding factors affecting a developing foetus

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1 Factors affecting the foetus >

Here is a list of all factors that can potentially affect a developing foetus.

Arrange the list into **factors which are harmful to the foetus** and **factors which help the foetus**.

a) alcohol b) nicotine c) folic acid d) regular but moderate exercise by the mother

e) carbon monoxide f) healthy, balanced diet g) drugs like heroin h) fish oils

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2 Reviewing evidence from case studies >>

Look at the following case studies investigating the effect of alcohol drunk during pregnancy on the subsequent development of children.

Study A: A research study looked at the findings from investigating over 10 000 children aged between 6 months and 14 years old, found that mothers who were binge drinkers during pregnancy produced children with problems in making some mental connections.

Study B: The results from three studies involving 11 900 children aged 9 months to 5 years from mothers who were moderate drinkers during pregnancy, found that these children were more prone to behavioural problems.

Study C: Children from1628 women who drank alcohol regularly during pregnancy were tested at the age of 5 years old. They were tested for general intelligence, attention and ability to perform certain tasks. There were found to be significant effects from their mothers’ alcohol consumption as the majority of the children did not perform normally.

From reading these case studies, what are the possible effects for the children of alcohol consumption by the mother while pregnant?

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3 Evaluating case studies >>>

Look at the case studies again.

1. Place the studies in order of most reliable to least reliable. Explain your choice.

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b) Discuss any issues with each of the studies.

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