

Pregnancy and Fertilization Vocabulary

1. **Fertilization** - The joining of together of a male sperm cell and a female egg cell to form one cell. Takes place in the mother's reproductive system.
2. **Uterus** - Pear-shaped organ inside a female's body where the embryo is protected and nourished.
3. **Embryo** - The developing organism from fertilization to about the eighth week of its development. Attaches to the wall of the uterus.
4. **Fetus** - The developing organism from the end of the eighth week until birth. (Will develop for nine months.)
5. **Placenta** - A thick, rich tissue that lines the walls of the uterus during pregnancy and that nourishes the fetus.
6. **Umbilical Cord** - A tube that connects the mother's placenta to the fetus.
 - Carries away the wastes produced by the growing fetus.
 - Substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs do harm the baby through the umbilical cord and placenta.
7. **Prenatal Care** - Steps taken to provide for the health of a pregnant female and her baby.
 - Eating healthy foods
 - Participating in moderate exercise
 - Getting plenty of rest
 - Avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs
 - Talking to a doctor or other health care provider before taking any medicines.
8. **Obstetrician** - Doctor who specializes in the care of a pregnant female and her unborn child.
9. **Ultrasound** - Technology uses sound waves to form a picture to check the growth of the fetus and to detect any problems that might exist.
10. **Birth Defects** - Abnormalities present at birth that cause physical or mental disabilities or death.
Environmental Factors that cause Birth Defects:
 - Poor nutrition
 - Alcohol Use
 - Medicine and other drugs
 - Infections
 - Tobacco
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases