

adolescence. The period of life between childhood and adulthood.

congenital disability. A condition existing from birth that limits a person's ability to use his or her body or mind.

fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS). A set of symptoms that can occur in a newborn whose mother drinks alcohol while pregnant.

fetus. A developing human from nine weeks after conception until birth.

growth spurt. A period of rapid physical growth.

infant. A child in the first year of life.

lactation. The production of breast milk by a mother's body following the birth of a baby.

life cycle. A series of stages through which people pass between birth and death.

low-birthweight baby. A baby that weighs less than 5 ½ pounds (2,500 g) at birth.

pica. The craving for and ingestion of nonfood materials such as clay, soil, or chalk.

placenta. An organ that forms inside the uterus during pregnancy in which blood vessels from the mother and the fetus are entwined, enabling the transfer of materials carried in the blood.

premature baby. A baby born before the 37th week of pregnancy.

puberty. The time during which a person develops sexual maturity.

toddler. A child between one and three years of age.

trimester. A span of about 13 to 14 weeks that represents one-third of the pregnancy period in humans.