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Human Behavior 2
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Chapter 3 reading
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1-Describe relevant environmental effects on prenatal development.

The maternal environment is responsible for the fragile dependence of the prenatal development. If the uterine environment center is impacted by other causes, such as overweight, substance abuse, or an individual who simply has many years of age, or had too many miscarriages, then the prenatal development can be at risk, due to the lack of health of the environment. The environmental effects on prenatal development can be threaten by multiple factors; maternal age and multiple gestations are two of the many factors. maternal age is put at risk because of a low fertility rate, which is also the caused of women who have multiple gestations, who is twice as likely to have birth defects. Poor nutrition or substance abuse are factors that can cause the results in the fetal suffering from IUGR, due to the prenatal environment being negatively interrupted by irresponsible habits from the parent.

The many factors that play a risk on the prenatal development can be scary, but on the bright side, there are certain precautions that can prevent such negative effects on the prenatal development. An individual who maintains good medical management of the pregnancy through prenatal visits increases the likelihood of a successful outcome; and there's also treatment programs that helps increase healthy birth possibilities, such as Assisted reproductive technology (ART), which has been a contributing factor to the increase in multiple-gestation births. The maternal environment is responsible for the fragile dependence of the prenatal development; so, if the maternal environment is not equipped for the sensitive period of prenatal development, then it can be a hinderance on the fetal nurture.

2-Evaluate the significance of the concept of a sensitive period for developing mother–infant bonding.

The period of 6 months to 24 months is viewed as a critical period for the development of the mother-infant relationship. The mother and infant relationship at this period can reduce negative future relational outcomes, such as neglect or abuse. “A small but growing number of parents and mental health professionals now believe that a child’s emotional health begins at conception. These parents and professionals believe that meditation and communication with the fetus increase bonding and result in the child’s better emotional well-being” (Ashford, 2018, p. 97)

Ashford, J. B. (2018). *Empowerment Series: Human Behavior in the Social Environment: A Multidimensional Perspective*.