

During the viewing of the prenatal development video several topics were addressed. For the proper development of a fetus a balance of nutrition must take place. In addition to proper nutrition careful attention must be given not to allow any foreign substances into the body that would decontaminate the fetus. Agents or substances such as alcohol and cigarette smoking are called teratogens. Teratogens translated from Greek means 'monster producing' and they upset fetal development.

The period of gestation begins the moment an egg is fertilized to form a zygote and ends at birth. This period of nine months purposely gives the brain time to develop inside the fetus. Upon birth a baby is coming into a very vast, diverse and sometimes overwhelming atmosphere. After birth the brain is still not done developing and will continue to do so as the baby grows and matures. But to be able to handle the amount of information the human brain will receive, the brain must be formed to a certain point inside the womb first.

Epigenetics is the study of genetics and the environment. Psychologists in this field study prenatal development because this phase is directed by genetics, inheritance and is heavily influenced by the environment a mother lives in. Research and study encourages proper development because in doing so, people are made more aware that learning for a baby starts in the womb.