

Environmental Risk Factors for Children at Different Stages of Development

Developmental Stage	Developmental Characteristics	Exposure Pathways (Physical Environment)	Biological Vulnerabilities	Appropriate Responses in the Social Environment
Newborn (0 to 2 months)	Nonambulatory Restricted environment High calorie/water intake High air intake Highly permeable skin Alkaline gastric secretions (Low gastric acidity)	Food Breast milk Infant formula Indoor air Tap/well water in home	Brain Cell migration Neuron myelination Creation of neuron synapses Lungs Developing alveoli Bones Rapid growth and hardening	Need for newborn-sensitive programs and regulations regarding: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Lead in drinking water Environmental tobacco smoke Need to educate parents and policymakers concerning environmental hazards
Infant/Toddler (2 months to 2 years)	Beginning to walk Oral exploration Restricted environment Increased time away from parents Minimal variation in diet	Food Baby food Milk and milk products Air Indoor Layering effects ^a Tap/well water in home and day care Surfaces Rugs Floors Lawns	Brain Creation of synapses Lungs Developing alveoli	Need for child-sensitive programs and regulations regarding: Radon in the home Residential pesticide use Lead abatement Environmental tobacco smoke Need to educate parents and policymakers concerning environmental hazards