STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Describe the various methods used to calculate gestational age.

2. List the physical and developmental characteristics that distinguish the premature infant from the full-term infant.

3. Name and detail the two major respiratory problems that can occur in premature infants.

4. Define intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH); provide details on diagnosis and treatment. Typically, what is the long-term neurological outcome for infants with IVH?

5. Describe the specific early intervention supports that are available to premature and small-for-dates infants.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Research hospitals in your town or city that house high-risk obstetrical centers with neonatal intensive care units. Compare and contrast the available facilities in your area with the goal of selecting an optimum environment for a premature infant.

2. Preterm birth is responsible for nearly one half of all cases of neonatal-onset neurodevelopmental disabilities. Select a neonatal-onset neurodevelopmental disability, such as cerebral palsy, and do some research on the treatment and outcome. Write a brief report on your findings.

3. Complete some additional research on the causes of premature birth. Create a brief public service announcement or an educational pamphlet on the topic of preventing preterm deliveries.

4. Draw a sketch of a premature infant. Be sure to include the physical characteristics that distinguish a premature infant from a full-term infant.