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English 101

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### Crack Babies

Society is forced to deal with the many problems of crack children. A decade ago the term crack babies did not exist. Now they are a generation which is growing at an uncontrollable rate in the United States. Professionals are having to deal with the situation on an experimental basis due to the youth of this disease. Through extensive treatment of the physical deformities, mental disabilities, and the behavioral patterns of these troubled children, doctors hope to overcome these obstacles on the road to a drug free nation.

Physical deformities are one of many problems crack children are faced with during their first hours alive. As the fetus is developing, it is surrounded by a placenta containing amniotic fluid. This is ". . . nature's way of protecting the infant's future intellect" (Yager 66-68). nature can only do so much to fight off cocaine. From the moment cocaine enters the placenta, it begins to contaminate the baby's source of nutrients. The cocaine causes the baby's blood vessels to constrict.

Fackelman stated in his article that this shuts off the vital flow of oxygen and nutrients to the baby (85). The baby's heart and lungs work overtime in an effort to avoid the harmful effects. This only induces additional stress on the organs which increases the possibility of further developmental damage. "No one has been able to link dosage to damage . . ." (Yager 120). But as the mother increases her abuse of cocaine, the baby may suffer from massive strokes and seizures (Revkin 12). Continued use can also instigate underdeveloped and malformed kidneys, genitals, intestines, spinal cord, and brain. After birth, external deformities are visible proof of the effects cocaine has on the developing fetus. As told in Reader's Digest, four-day-old Ronald Parks slept in his crib wrapped in his cracked, saggy skin. The saggy skin resulted from the lack of essential vitamins in the placental blood vessels which are needed to develop healthy skin (Yager 67-68).

Along with the trauma of physical deformities, difficult behavioral patterns often cause unexpected problems. With heroine an addiction is created, and the baby has to be weaned after birth. Once withdrawal is over, the outlook is reasonably good. The same can't be said for crack babies (Hopkins 66).

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- Double space all entries
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- Notice that the entries with dates (days, months, years) begin immediately after the publication name with no punctuation mark separating the two.
- In general, omit titles, affiliations, degrees that precede or follow names, such as Reverand John Smith, George Smith, PhD.

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- If a quote has more than 4 typed lines, indent each line of the quote 10 spaces, double space.