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Babies*

### **Physical Well-Being Scenario 1: Grace, age 2**

**Grace, a 2 year old**, lives with her mother and three older siblings. Her mother, a single parent, works two jobs. If Grace's aunt cannot be there, Grace is left with her 8-year-old sister in charge while their mother is at her night job.

Grace's mother has no time to cook, so there are no planned meals. There usually is food available for the children in the refrigerator. The choices are limited to snack-type items like sodas, chips, cereals, canned spaghetti, peanut butter crackers, some canned fruit, and cheese. Grace needs help to open the refrigerator or cabinet doors and get the food out. Sometimes the others are too busy to help her right away.

What possible effects might Grace's physical situation have on her brain development and physical well-being?



## **Physical Well-Being Scenario 2: Reynaldo, age 4**

**Reynaldo, a 4 year old**, lives with his parents and two siblings, one older and one younger. He goes to a child care center during the day, since both parents work. The teachers in his classroom have changed four times in the past six months. Reynaldo does not seem happy when his father drops him off. A few times he has come home with scraped knees or cuts that he says happened on the playground.

His mother has noticed that Reynaldo does not always turn his head or respond when she calls his name. She isn't sure what to do about this. The parents work, but do not have health insurance. The family is not eligible for Medicaid. The children could qualify for Peach Care, but the parents cannot afford the premiums. The children have not been to the doctor for checkups in the past couple of years. If someone is really sick, they go to the emergency room.

What possible effects might Reynaldo's physical situation have on his brain development and physical well-being?



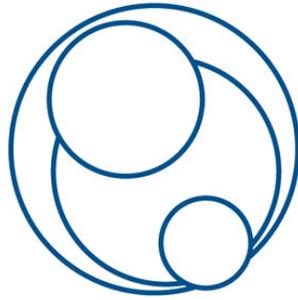
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**Physical Well-Being Scenario 3:  
Keyla, age 3 months, and Eddie, age 2 ½**

**Keyla, age 3 months and Eddie, age 2 ½**, live with their parents. Their mother, Brenda, has been breastfeeding Keyla, and it is going well. She loves cuddling Keyla during and after the feedings, and talking, singing, and reading board books to her. Brenda knows that she will need to return to work very soon, and is wondering if she can continue to breastfeed if she enrolls Keyla in the family child care home where her son is enrolled.

Brenda also has enjoyed having more time to spend with Eddie since she has been on maternity leave. The four of them eat dinner together every night. During dinner they talk about the day's activities. Brenda tries to serve a new food at each meal. Eddie used to be shy and quiet, but lately he talks a lot more during dinner. Eddie sometimes hesitates to try new vegetables, but is willing to have them on his plate. He is getting better at feeding himself without spilling. He chews with his mouth closed and asks to be excused before he leaves the table.

What possible effects might Keyla and Eddie's physical situation have on their brain development and physical well-being?



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### **Physical Well-Being Scenario 4: Ben, age 3**

**Ben, a 3 year old**, lives with his parents. The family just found out that they will have a new baby in about seven months. Ben goes to a half-day preschool three days a week, and loves his school, his teachers, and his friends. When Ben's father picked him up last week, a teacher mentioned that Ben was squinting when he worked puzzles, and seemed to have trouble playing with small toys. The teachers also noticed that Ben was no longer very interested in books.

The family has just moved into an older two-story house built in the 1920's. They know there are some safety concerns for a 3-year-old, and are concerned about the safety of the new baby. Ben's mom has just unpacked the infant car seat that she put away when Ben outgrew it. She is wondering where she can take it to be sure it is installed correctly.

What possible effects might Ben's physical situation have on his brain development and physical well-being?