chapter 3 vocab

# genetic counseling

A communication process designed to help couples assess their chances of giving birth to a baby with a hereditary disorder and choose the best course of action in view of risks and family goals

# prenatal diagnostic methods

Medical procedures that permit detection of developmental problems before birth

# amnion

Membrane the encloses the developing organism in fluid, which helps keep the temperature of the prenatal world constant and provides a cushion against any jolts caused by the woman’s movement

# chorion

Protective membrane which surrounds the amnion

# placenta

Permits food and oxygen to reach the developing organism and waste products to be carried away

# umbilical cord

First appears as a primitive body stalk and, during the course of pregnancy, grows to a length of 1 to 3 feet; delivers blood loaded with nutrients and two arteries that remove waste products

# embryo

Lasts from implantation through the 8th week of pregnancy, most rapid prenatal changes take place while groundwork is laid for all body structures and internal organs

# fetus

From the 9th week to the end of pregnancy, longest prenatal period; “growth and finishing” stages where organism increases rapidly in size

# age of viability

The point at which the baby can first survive; occurs between 22 and 26 weeks

# teratogen

Any environmental agent that causes damage during the prenatal period

# fetal alcohol syndrome

Slow physical growth, facial abnormalities, and other defects due to mothers drinking during pregnancy

# natural childbirth

Consists of a group of techniques aimed at reducing pain and medical intervention and making childbirth as rewarding an experience as possible

# breech position

Turned in such a way that the buttocks or feet would be delivered first