

This sample of a double-entry journal was adapted from a journal kept by a student in Professor Abigail McNamee's course, "Child Study and Informal Developmental Assessment" (EDC 721).

Meaningful quotation from reading (indicate page #s)	Your response to each quotation
<p>“Even smoking by fathers has been associated with genetic abnormalities... Children of smoking mothers have been found to be less responsive, fussier, and more sluggish during infancy, and to perform poorly on attention and picture-recognition tasks in the preschool years. They have also been found to be less competent readers and to have social adjustment problems in later childhood.” (Trawick-Smith, page 72)</p>	<p>This passage made me think about my brother and his wife. Unfortunately, during my sister-in-law's entire pregnancy she and my brother smoked constantly. Even after both sides of the family and doctors begged them to stop, they didn't. Oddly enough, their selfish behavior didn't seem to affect my niece, with the exception of her low birth-rate. She is now eight years old and the second tallest girl in the class. She was able to skip a grade, and is still being given work at the next grade level. I'm not saying smoking is alright during pregnancy, nor am I 100% objective, but still I am amazed by how few problems she has.</p>
<p>“Experiences play a key role, however, in determining how the inherited trait will actually be expressed as the human develops. According to Scarr, environments provide a 'range' of opportunities for development... not only that environment can shape the way children turn out, but also that children can 'create their own environments.’” (Trawick-Smith)</p>	<p>When I ask myself why she is OK, I have to think of her environment. She was raised on a kibbutz in Israel. Education on a kibbutz is a unique experience, as I know, because I spent a number of years on a kibbutz as a child. Children are raised to be strong and independent. They not only receive the love of their parents, neighbors, teachers and friends, but they also have a house mother. Education of children is the number one priority for everyone on the kibbutz and every minute of the day is seen as a learning process. Children are expected to be great thinkers, and they are treated as such. It makes me wonder, who would my niece have been without her community? How would she have survived and developed?</p>