

## Chapter 9 Vocabulary

**Amniotic Sac** -- bag of water; a sac developed in pregnancy inside the uterus containing amniotic fluid. This fluid helps protect the baby during pregnancy.

**Caesarean Birth (C-section)** -- birth of a baby through an incision in the abdomen. This occurs when birth through the vagina is not possible or would not be safe.

**Cervix** -- lower part of the uterus which opens or dilates during labor to allow the birth of the baby.

**Conception** -- the beginning of pregnancy when an egg cell from a female meets a Sperm cell from a male.

**Contraction** -- the tightening of a muscle. During labor the muscle that contracts is the uterus. Also called labor pains.

**Dilation** -- the process of opening. In labor the cervix dilates or opens to a size of 10 cm in diameter to allow the baby to be pushed out of the uterus and into the vagina.

**Embryo** -- the first part of the life of a developing baby. This period lasts from the time the fertilized egg is a few days old until it has been growing for 8 weeks.

**Fetus** -- the developing baby from the 8<sup>th</sup> week of life in the uterus until birth.

**Labor** -- regular contractions of the uterus which open or dilate the cervix that allow the baby and placenta to be pushed out.

**Placenta** -- also called after birth, an organ which grows in pregnancy inside the uterus. It is attached to the uterus on one side and connected to the baby by the umbilical cord. Food and oxygen are received by the baby from the placenta through the cord and waste products are removed in a similar way.

**Umbilical Cord** -- tube containing 3 blood vessel that connects the baby to the placenta.

**Uterus** -- small muscular sac in the female body where the baby grows during pregnancy; also known as the womb.

**Vagina** -- the passage from the outside of the body to the cervix, also refers to the opening of this muscular tube. Also known as the birth canal.