

## Fertility treatment

### Introduction

Some couples struggle to have a baby. If the woman still hasn't become pregnant after two years of trying, their doctor will carry out checks on their reproductive systems to try and identify any problems. Some couples are offered IVF (in-vitro fertilisation) treatment to help them have a baby.

In this activity you will use your research skills to find out about:

- what IVF is
- who may have IVF treatment
- what happens during IVF treatment
- risks associated with IVF treatment.
- You will use your literacy skills to produce a leaflet that can be given to patients who are thinking about having IVF treatment.

### Brief

You are going to produce a leaflet that doctors can hand out to patients who are thinking about having IVF treatment.

Your leaflet should:

- describe how IVF treatment works
- state the medical conditions which IVF can overcome
- provide information on the benefits and risks of IVF treatment
- include an overview of what happens during IVF treatment
- be made from one folded sheet of A4 paper
- use appropriate language that can be understood by people who have no medical or scientific knowledge.

### Step 1

Research the following topics:

- what IVF is
- why it may be recommended/who may benefit from IVF
- what happens during IVF treatment
- risks associated with IVF treatment.

### Step 2 (extension)

Some people are concerned that IVF treatment could lead to couples choosing to have 'designer babies'. Carry out some further research to find out what is meant by the term 'designer baby'. Use examples to show what it means.

**Step 3**

Plan appropriate sub-headings to structure your leaflet and decide on the important information you want to include.

**Step 4**

Make your leaflet.

**Sources****IVF treatment**

This website contains information on what happens during IVF treatment, and risks:

[www.nhs.uk/Conditions/IVF/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/IVF/Pages/Introduction.aspx)

**Why IVF?**

These websites contain information on conditions that could lead to IVF being recommended to couples, what happens during IVF treatment, and associated risks:

[www.babycentre.co.uk/a4094/fertility-treatment-in-vitro-fertilisation-ivf](http://www.babycentre.co.uk/a4094/fertility-treatment-in-vitro-fertilisation-ivf)

[www.bupa.co.uk/individuals/health-information/directory/f/assisted-conception](http://www.bupa.co.uk/individuals/health-information/directory/f/assisted-conception)

**'Designer babies' (extension)**

This website introduces the concept of a 'designer baby':

<https://www.futureforall.org/bioengineering/designer-babies.html>

### Writing frame

You are going to produce a leaflet that doctors can hand out to patients who are thinking about having IVF treatment.

Summarise your research findings on the key areas below.

What is IVF treatment?

Why might IVF be recommended/who may benefit from IVF?

Benefits and risks of IVF treatment

What happens during IVF treatment?

'Designer babies'  
(extension)

Plan for layout of leaflet

### Important points

- Make sure your leaflet is no bigger than one folded sheet of A4 paper.
- Use appropriate language that can be understood by people who have no medical or scientific knowledge.
- Use bullet points to summarise your main findings.

## Your work

You have now made a leaflet that doctors can hand out to patients who are thinking about having IVF treatment.

Look at the questions below, and check that you have met the brief.

- Have you described how IVF treatment works?
- Have you stated why IVF may be recommended/who may benefit from IVF?
- Have you provided information on the benefits and risks of IVF treatment?
- Have you included an overview of what happens during IVF treatment?
- Is your leaflet made of one folded sheet of A4 paper?
- Have you used appropriate language that can be understood by people who have no medical or scientific knowledge?