Reply to two students

Student name

University name

**Premature infants and their challenges**

Premature birth is a birth that occurs before the start of the 37th week of pregnancy. Premature babies are at higher risk of complications throughout their lives. Premature babies may suffer from breathing problems as they have an immature respiratory system or they may have a lung disorder. In addition, they may face different heart problems such as patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) and low blood pressure. Premature babies are also at risk of having brain problems such as the risk of bleeding in the brain leading to permanent brain injury. These babies also face learning disabilities.

Furthermore, these babies are found to have temperature control problems. Premature babies also suffer from different gastrointestinal problems such as necrotizing enterocolitis or NEC. In this disease babies, intestines get affected. However, those who receive only breast milk are at low risk of these problems (Maffei & Schanler, 2017). The exact causes of premature births are not known. However, precautions can be taken to avoid the premature births so babies may not have to suffer from different complications all through their life.

**Twins**

Twins can be identical or they cannot be identical depending upon their way of conceiving. Generally, there are two types of twins; fraternal twins and monozygotic twins. Fraternal twins also known as non-identical twins are the result of the fertilization of two eggs by two different sperm. Thus, the two fetuses have two separate placentas. This is the reason they do not usually look identical as well as they may not be of the same sex.

On the other hand, monozygotic twins also known as identical twins are the result of the splitting of one embryo. These babies share the same placenta. Sometimes babies may have twin-twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS) in this case (Johnson, Papanna, & Simpson, 2018). One baby may get too much blood while the other not. This marks the health of both babies. There are different factors that can result in twin babies such as the advancing age of the mother, higher number of previous pregnancies, heredity, and race as well as assisted reproductive techniques.

References

Johnson, A., Papanna, R., & Simpson, L. L. (2018). Twin-twin transfusion syndrome: Management and outcome. *UpToDate, Levine D, Wilkins-Haug (Ed). Accessed August*, *14*.

Maffei, D., & Schanler, R. J. (2017). Human milk is the feeding strategy to prevent necrotizing enterocolitis! *Seminars in Perinatology*, *41*, 36–40. Elsevier.