

Plain language activity 2

Here is the Grade 4 rewritten version example from *Writing and Designing Print Materials for Beneficiaries: A Guide for State Medicaid Agencies*, by Jeanne McGee. It is written at a Grade 12 level.

GRADE 4: If you are pregnant or think you might be, go to the doctor as soon as you can. If you start your care early, things will go better for you and your baby. Your own doctor or a childbirth doctor from our list will give you a first exam. Tests every month or so will let you know if all is going well. If there is a problem, you'll know it right away. Then we can do what is needed. Early care is the best way to have a healthy child. Your baby counts on you.

GRADE 12: It makes good sense that premature births and newborn illnesses are decreased by early pregnancy care. The doctor is actively involved in testing the pregnant woman for pregnancy-induced diabetes and a host of other problems that would not be detected by the patient alone. We know that these problems cause premature births and illness in newborns. It certainly makes sense that early detection and treatment of these problems by the doctor results in healthier babies.

Sourced from: The Health Literacy Environment of Hospitals and Health Centers, Readability Assessment pp 122-123.
(http://www.ncsall.net/fileadmin/resources/teach/environ_append2.pdf)