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CONSIDERATIONS WHEN VETTING INFORMATION SOURCES

ADVICE FROM PANDEMIC PARENTING GUEST EXPERT,
MELINDA WENNER MOYER

Where does the information come from?

Are you reading a press release or a published journal article? Was the article peer-reviewed?

Be cautious of studies that haven't been peer-reviewed because this means they haven't been evaluated by other scientists. Melinda Wenner Moyer advises parents to find sources they can trust, such as science reporters at major newspapers, academic journals, or federal agencies.



Are there any limitations to the research?

Make sure the study is open and transparent about what the limitations are. An example of a limitation could be that the study only involved people from a certain region in the U.S. or moms of a certain race or ethnicity.



Does the study involve people?

Although there is important research done using animals, those results don't necessarily extend to people. Melinda Wenner Moyer says, "Just because something works on mice doesn't mean it's going to work on people."



How many people are in the study?

How large is the sample size? Does it reflect the larger population?



Depending on the type of study, researchers should have a large enough sample size to draw conclusions that are credible. Often, the more people there are in a study sample, the better, in terms of being able to trust that the research findings apply to a larger population.

For more information visit
www.pandemic-parent.org

