

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

According to a report from the Harvard School of Public Health, many everyday products, including some bug sprays and cleaning fluids, could lead to an increased risk of brain and behavioral disorders in children. The developing brain, the report says, is particularly 26 to the toxic effects of certain chemicals these products may contain, and the damage they cause can be 27 .

The official policy, however, is still evolving. Health and environmental 28 have long urged US government agencies to 29 the use of some of the 11 chemicals the report cites and called for more studies on their long-term effects. In 2001, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency 30 the type and amount of lead that could be present in paint and soil in homes and child-care 31 , after concerns were raised about lead poisoning. The agency is now 32 the toxic effects of some of the chemicals in the latest report.

But the threshold for regulation is high. Because children's brain and behavioral disorders, like hyperactivity and lower grades, can also be linked to social and genetic factors, it's tough to pin them on exposure to specific chemicals with solid 33 evidence, which is what the EPA requires. Even the Harvard study did not prove a direct 34 but noted strong associations between exposure and risk of behavioral issues.

Nonetheless, it's smart to 35 caution. While it may be impossible to prevent kids from drinking tap water that may contain trace amounts of chemicals, keeping kids away from lawns recently sprayed with chemicals and freshly dry-cleaned clothes can't hurt.

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| A) advocates | I) particles |
| B) compact | J) permanent |
| C) correlation | K) restricted |
| D) exercise | L) simulating |
| E) facilities | M) statistical |
| F) interaction | N) tighten |
| G) investigating | O) vulnerable |
| H) overwhelmed | |