

Prenatal Development

Month 1

Before you even know you are pregnant, your baby's heart, central nervous system, and lungs begin to develop. By the end of the 4th week the baby is about 3/16 of an inch long.

Month 2

By 28 days the heart begins beating at a regular beat. During the second month, the baby's eyes and ears begin to develop. The larynx begins to develop. The brain and the spinal cord are well formed. The head is large in proportion to the rest of the baby's body at this stage. The liver begins to produce blood cells. The arms and legs are beginning to develop. Tiny buds that will develop into the fingers already have fingerprints. By 7 weeks all the essential internal and external structures are present. By the end of the 8th week the baby is about an inch long and weighs about 1/30 of an ounce.

Month 3

The arms, hands and fingers, feet and toes are fully formed. Fingernails and toenails are beginning to develop. The external ears are formed. The teeth are beginning to form in the jawbones. The external sex organs are apparent. In boys, the testicles already contain sperm. In girls, the eggs already contain ova. By the end of the 3rd month, the baby is about 3 inches long and weighs about one ounce.

Month 4

The baby's heartbeat can be heard with a doppler. The baby has eyebrows and lashes. It can suck his or her thumb. The baby can stretch and move it's limbs. By the end of the 4th month your baby is about 7 inches long and weighs about 4 ounces.

Month 5

The baby is developing muscles. It is during this month that most mothers will feel their baby move. This is called quickening. The baby is about 10–12 inches long and weighs from 1/2 pound to 1 pound.

Month 6

The skin is reddish in color, wrinkled and covered with a heavy creamy coating called vernix. It has a reflex hand grip and a startle reflex. The baby is 11–14 inches long and weighs between 1 1/2 to 2 pounds.

Month 7

Your baby is continuing to grow and exercise. It weighs about 4 1/2 pounds and is 15 to 17 inches long. Your baby will usually turn head down this month.

Month 8

The lungs are mature by 36 weeks. The baby is beginning to get plump. Your baby is now about 18 inches long and weighs about 5 1/2 pounds.

Month 9

The skin is still coated with vernix. The average full term baby weighs about 8 pounds and is between 19 and 21 inches long.