

Healthy Beginnings Project

1-855-825-3541

The College of William & Mary

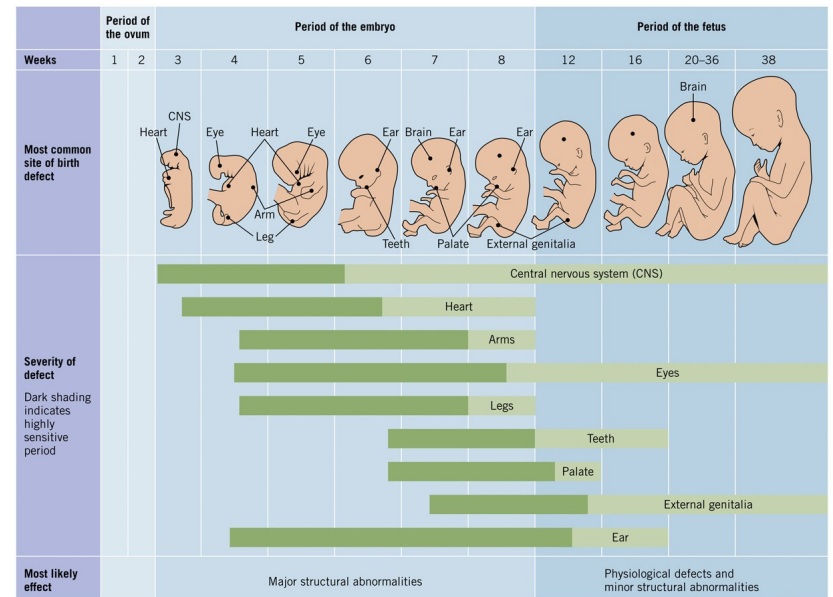
Psychology Department



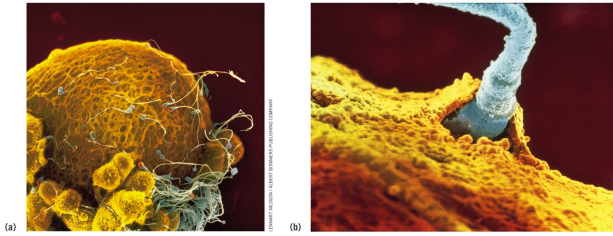
Cole, M., Cole, S., Lightfoot, C. (2005) *The Development of Children*, 5th ed., Worth Publishers, NY (p. 71-109)

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Tracking Baby's Progress

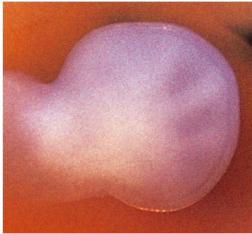


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a) Sperm nearing the egg (b) Sperm penetrating the egg

Siegler, DeLoache and Eisenberg: How Children Develop, Second Edition
Copyright © 2006 by Worth Publishers



Embryonic hand plate



Neural tube

36 Weeks

Babies differ in size, depending on many factors (such as whether it is a boy or a girl, the number of babies you are carrying, the size of the parents, etc.), so your baby's overall rate of growth is as important as the actual size. On average, the baby is about 12.5 inches (32 centimeters) from crown to rump and weighs about 5.5 pounds (2.5 kilograms). The brain has been developing rapidly. Lungs are nearly fully developed. Baby moves less due to tight space. The head is usually positioned down into the pelvis by now. **A term pregnancy begins at 37 weeks**; baby is ready! Be sure you have baby gear for the first few weeks.



MELANIE SPENCE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

24 Weeks

Your baby weighs about 1.4 pounds (about 630 grams). Baby responds to sounds by moving or increasing its pulse. You may notice jerking motions if baby hiccups.



Fetus at 28 weeks

28 Weeks

Your baby weighs about 2 pounds 6 ounces (about 1100 grams). There's a good chance the baby would survive if born prematurely now. Ask your doctor about preterm labor warning signs. Register for birthing classes. Baby changes position frequently at this point in pregnancy.

32 Weeks

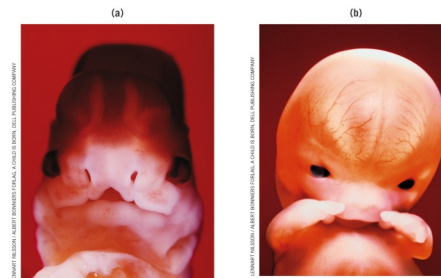
Often on the move, your baby weighs almost 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms). A layer of fat is forming under the skin. Baby will gain up to half its birth weight between now and delivery. Ask your doctor how to do a fetal movement chart. Think about breastfeeding. Soon you may start leaking colostrum from your breasts, a yellowish fluid that precedes milk production.



Embryo at 4 weeks

4 Weeks

Cells are already specializing, with the outer layer of the fertilized egg becoming the nervous system, skin, and hair. The inner layer will be the breathing and digestive organs. The middle layer will be the skeleton, muscles, circulatory system, kidneys, and sex organs. Home pregnancy tests are often positive now



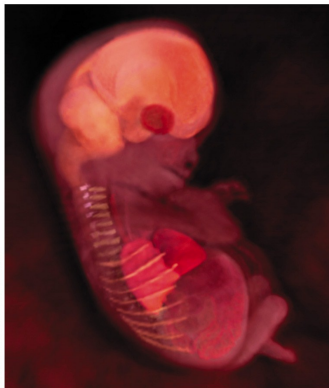
Face development from 5½ to 8½ weeks

6 Weeks

The embryo looks like a tadpole. It's the size of a BB pellet from crown to rump (crown-to-rump length is used because the baby's legs are usually not well developed yet and are bent and hard to measure). Ultrasound usually detects a heartbeat by now. Between 17 and 56 days the embryo is most susceptible to drugs, disease, and other factors that interfere with normal growth.



Fetus at 9 weeks



Fetus at 11 weeks

12 Weeks

The fetus measures about 6 to 7 cm (2.3 to 2.75 inches) from crown to rump. The fetus will start to make its own movements. Your chance of miscarriage drops considerably after this week.



Fetus at 16 weeks



Fetus at 18 weeks



Fetus at 20 weeks

20 Weeks

Your baby weighs about 5 ounces (300 grams). The nervous system is starting to function. The external genitalia can be used as a means for you to see if it's a boy or a girl. It can suck a thumb, yawn, stretch, and make faces. Soon -- if you haven't already -- you'll feel your baby move, which is called "quickening."