



DEVELOPMENT
OF THE BABY

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BABY

A baby starts out as a fertilized egg no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence. The baby will change and grow every single day. It will take 280 days or 40 weeks before the baby is fully developed. Pregnancy is often divided into three periods called trimesters. Each is about three months long.

FIRST TRIMESTER (0 TO 13 WEEKS)

By the end of the first month the baby will be one-half inch in length and weigh less than one ounce. Organs such as the heart, brain, and lungs are beginning to form. The placenta and umbilical cord are developing. The umbilical cord carries nourishment to and waste away from the baby.

By the end of the second month the baby will be one and one-eighth inch in length and weigh less than one ounce. The arms and legs are starting to form. The head is large in proportion to the rest of the body because the brain is developing rapidly. Facial features become more pronounced.

By the end of the third month the baby will be four inches in length and weigh one ounce. The baby is called a fetus and teeth and lips begin to develop. The kidneys produce urine and tooth buds appear.

SECOND TRIMESTER (14-28 WEEKS)

By the end of the fourth month the baby will be seven inches in length and weigh five ounces. Eyelashes, fingernails, and toenails are forming. The baby has vocal cords and taste buds and can suck its thumb.

By the end of the fifth month the baby will be eight to twelve inches in length and weigh about one-half to one pound. Hair begins to grow and a protective coating of vernix (a white, greasy substance) covers the baby.

By the end of the sixth month the baby will be eleven to fourteen inches in length and weigh about one to one and one-half pounds. The baby can open and close its eyes and cough and hiccup.

THIRD TRIMESTER (29-40 WEEKS)

By the end of the seventh month the baby will be fifteen inches in length and weigh about two and one-half to three pounds. The baby's skin is red and wrinkled because there is practically no fat under it and the baby can respond to stimuli (pain, light, and sound).

By the end of the eighth month the baby will be sixteen and one-half to eighteen inches in length and weigh four and one-half to six pounds. The bones continue to harden as the baby develops and the baby can hear sounds outside your body.

By the end of the ninth month the baby will be twenty to twenty-two inches in length and weigh six to eight pounds. The baby will have smooth skin and the bones of the head will be soft and flexible for delivery.

