

To view the video:



www.truthbooth.org/video

a window to the womb

Stages of Fetal Development



34 weeks

The Truth Booth is an educational program of Cleveland Right to Life Education Fund.

For more information, visit www.truthbooth.org



Photo credits:
Cover photo: American Life League
4-5 week photo: Public Domain
10 week photo: Creative Commons
All other photos: Life Issues Institute

Designed by Human Life Alliance - 2012

4 - 5 weeks



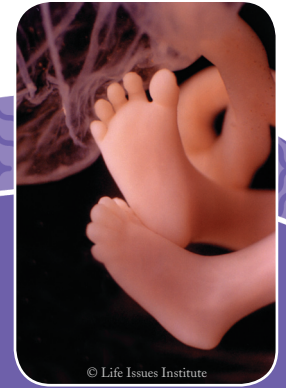
9 weeks



10 weeks



13 weeks



Day 1: Fertilization

The sperm joins with the egg to form one cell. This single cell contains the complex genetic makeup for every detail of a new human being.

1st Month (1-4 Weeks)

The first cell divides in two, and cell division continues as it travels down the fallopian tube to the uterus. Foundations of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are already established, and by day 21 the heart begins to beat in a regular fashion. Muscles are forming, and arms, legs, eyes, and ears have begun to show.

2nd Month (5-8 Weeks)

By six weeks, brain waves can be detected. The jaw forms, including teeth and taste buds. The baby begins to swallow amniotic fluid, and sometimes hiccups. During this time, the stomach produces digestive juices, and the kidneys begin to function. Fingers and toes are developing, and at seven weeks the chest and abdomen are fully formed. Swimming with a natural swimmer's stroke in the amniotic fluid, she now looks like a miniature human infant.

3rd Month (9-12 Weeks)

Unique fingerprints are evident and never change. The baby now sleeps, awakens, and exercises her muscles. The baby is very active. The gender can be visually determined, and family resemblances may appear. By the end of the month all the organs and systems of her body are functioning.

4th Month (13-16 Weeks)

By the end of the fourth month, the baby is 8-10 inches in length and weighs about one-half pound. Her ears are functioning and she hears her mother's heartbeat, as well as external noises like music.

5th Month (17-20 Weeks)

If a sound is especially loud, the baby may jump in reaction to it. Thumb-sucking has been observed during the fifth month.

6th Month (21-24 Weeks)

Oil and sweat glands are functioning. The baby's delicate skin is protected in the amniotic sac by a special ointment called vernix. She grows rapidly in size and strength while her lungs become more developed.

7th Month (25-28 Weeks)

The baby can now recognize her mother's voice. She exercises by stretching and kicking. She uses the senses of hearing, touch, and taste, and she can even look around with open eyes.

8th Month (29-32 Weeks)

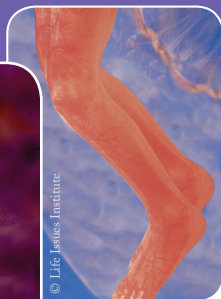
The baby swallows a gallon of amniotic fluid per day and often hiccups. The baby's kicks are stronger, and mom may be able to feel an elbow or heel against her abdomen.

9th Month (33-36 Weeks)

Gaining one half pound per week, the baby is getting ready for birth. The bones in her head are soft and flexible to more easily mold for the journey down the birth canal. Of the 45 generations of cell divisions before adulthood, 41 have already taken place. Only four more come before adolescence. Ninety percent of a person's development happens in the womb.



14 weeks



17 weeks



20 weeks



24 weeks

