

“Look at Me Grow” Month by Month

First Trimester

1st Month: In the first 8 weeks, the baby, called an embryo, is developing tiny limb buds, which will become arms and legs. Its heart and lungs begin to form. The embryo looks like a tadpole. By the 25th day, the heart begins to beat. The brain and spinal cord begin to form. At the end of the first month, the embryo is about ½ inch long and weighs less than 1 ounce.

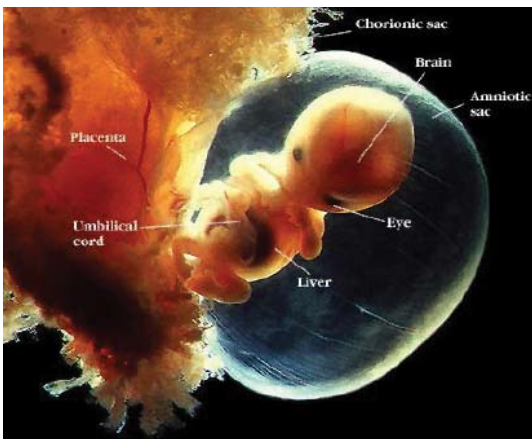
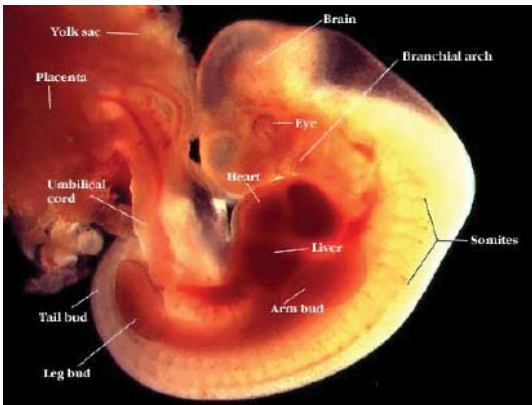
2nd Month: The embryo develops into a fetus. Major organs and systems are formed but not completely developed during this month. The placenta is in the early stages. The placenta exchanges nutrients from the mother’s body for waste products produced by the fetus. The ears, wrists, and ankles are formed. Fingers and toes are developed. Eyelids form and grow but are sealed shut. At the end of this month, the fetus begins to look like a person, is about 1 inch long, and weighs less than 1 ounce.

3rd Month: You can hear the fetus’s heart beat with an instrument called a doptone. The fingers and toes have soft nails. The mouth has 20 buds that will become teeth. The body organs continue to mature, and the fetus gains weight. By the end of this month, the fetus is 4 inches long and weighs a little more than 1 ounce.

Second Trimester

4th Month: The fetus can hear your voice, move, kick, and swallow. The umbilical cord is growing and thickening to carry nourishment from the mother to the fetus. The umbilical cord can also pass along hazards like alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The placenta is fully formed at this point. At the end of this month, the fetus is about 6 to 7 inches long and weighs about 5 ounces.

5th Month: The fetus is sleeping at regular intervals now. The fingernails have grown on the tips of fingers, and eyelashes have formed. The fetus is also more active, turning head over heels and from side to side. At the end of this month, the fetus is 8 to 12 inches long and weighs ½ to 1 pound.



Top: first month **Middle:** second month **Above Left:** third month
Above Right: fourth month



6th Month: At this stage the fetus can cry, hiccup, and grip with its hands. The brain is developing rapidly. The skin is red and wrinkled and covered with fine, soft hair. The fetus is usually too small to be born because its lungs are not developed. The eyelids are beginning to part, and the eyes open. The finger and toe prints can now be seen. At the end of this month, the fetus is 11 to 14 inches long and weighs 1 to 1½ pounds.

Third Trimester

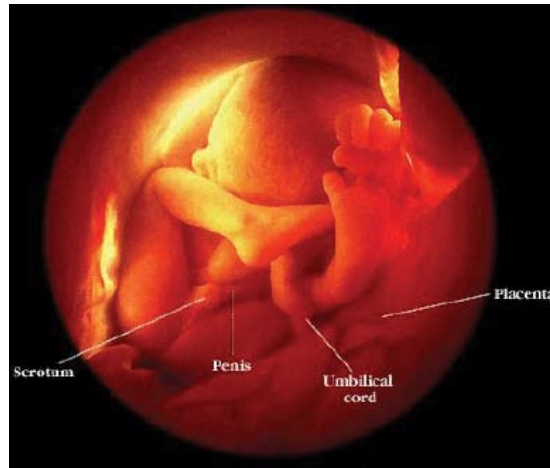
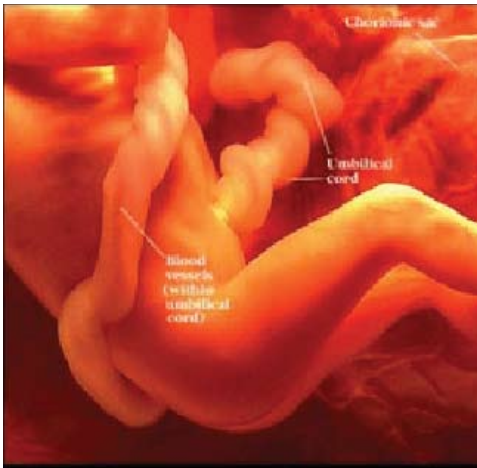


7th Month: If born now, the fetus has a good chance of survival. The fetus can open and close its eyes and suck its thumb. It exercises by kicking and stretching. The fetus can hear the mother's heartbeat and other sounds and responds to light. At the end of this month, the fetus is about 15 inches long and weighs about 3 to 4 pounds.

8th Month: The baby is too big to move around much, but can kick hard and roll around. The brain continues to grow rapidly, and lungs continue to grow. The bones of the head are soft to make it easier for the baby during birth. At the end of this month, the baby is about 18 inches long and weighs about 5 pounds.

9th Month: The baby is considered full-term. The lungs are fully developed. The baby continues to grow at about ½ pound a week. The baby usually drops into a head down position for the birth. At the end of this month, the baby is about 20 inches long.

Top: fifth month
Above: sixth month



Far Left: seventh month
Left: eighth month
Below: ninth month



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