

# Fetal Development

*A window to the womb...*

Life, especially unborn life, is a miracle. At just 21 days, the baby's heart begins beating, sometimes before the mother even knows she is pregnant! The baby grows every week until birth, when the mother finally gets to hold her little miracle for the first time.

**Day 1** — Life has begun! The sperm and ovum have combined (fertilized) into one single cell, which contains all of the child's DNA. The egg travels through the fallopian tube to implant on the wall of the mother's uterus.



**Day 20** — The nervous system begins to develop.

**Day 21** — The baby's heart begins to beat.

**Day 28** — The baby's arms, legs, eyes and ears can now be seen. The embryo is 10,000 times larger than the egg.

**Day 35** — The fingers have now developed.

**Day 40** — The first brain waves are detected.

**Week 10** — The baby can move her muscles and her brain produces 250,000 neurons each minute.



**Week 11** — The embryo is now called a fetus. The baby's kidneys are growing and begin producing urine.

**Week 14** — The baby is more than 3 inches long. One could also determine the gender at this time.



**Week 16** — The growing baby is sucking its thumb and stretching its arms and legs.

**Week 18** — The baby might be able to hear for the first time. He or she is now 5.5 inches long.

**Week 20** — We have reached the half-way mark! The mother can feel her child's movements for the first time.

**Week 23** — The baby's fingerprints are developed and she experiences rapid eye movements. Could she be dreaming?

**Week 24** — The baby is a foot long and has a regular sleep cycle.

**Week 25** — The baby reacts to her mother's voice and other familiar sounds.

**Week 27** — This is the end of the second trimester. Every major organ is functioning and the next thirteen weeks will be mostly physical growth.

**Week 29** — The bones are fully formed, although they are soft so they can grow more later on.

**Week 31** — The baby can now control his or her own body temperature and breathing.

**Week 34** — The baby, more than 1.5 feet long, has its fingernails.

**Week 35** — He or she will gain half a pound each week until birth!

**Week 38** — The baby can now grasp things with his or her hands. Only a couple more weeks until the big day!



# The Baby is Here!



**From the Womb...**

**...to the World.**



**Everyone, including the vulnerable unborn child, has  
the right to LIFE.**

*Right  
to Life*<sup>®</sup>

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