

Prenatal Development Timeline

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| ■ Nervous | ■ Cardiovascular | ■ Muscular | ■ Early Events |
| ■ Special Senses | ■ Respiratory | ■ Skeletal | ■ Growth Parameters |
| ■ Blood & Immune | ■ Gastrointestinal | ■ Endocrine | ■ General |
| ■ Skin/Integument | ■ Renal/Urinary | ■ Reproductive | ■ Movement |

Unit 1: The First Week

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| Day 0 | — | ■ Embryonic period begins |
| Day 1 | — | ■ Fertilization resulting in zygote formation |
| Day 1 - Day 1 | — | ■ Fertilization - development begins with a single-cell embryo!!! |
| Day 2 | — | ■ Early pregnancy factor (EPF) ■ Activation of the genome ■ Zygote divides into two blastomeres (24 - 30 hours from start of fertilization) |
| Day 3 | — | ■ Embryo is spherically shaped with 12 to 16 cells |
| Day 4 | — | ■ Embryonic disc ■ Free floating blastocyst ■ Inner cell mass ■ See where the back and chest will be |
| Day 5 | — | ■ Hatching blastocyst |
| Day 6 | — | ■ Embryo attaches to wall of uterus |
| 1 week | — | ■ Chorion ■ Hypoblast & epiblast ■ Placenta begins to form |

Unit 2: 1 to 2 Weeks

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| 1 week, 1 day | — | ■ Positive pregnancy test ■ Amnioblasts present; amnion and amniotic cavity formation begins |
| 1 week, 2 days | — | ■ Cells in womb engorged with nutrients |
| 1 week, 4 days | — | ■ Longitudinal axis |
| 1 week, 5 days | — | ■ Implantation complete ■ Yolk sac |
| 1 week, 6 days | — | ■ Primordial blood vessels ■ Amnion with single cell layer ■ Chorionic villi |
| 2 weeks | — | ■ Yolk sac ■ Yolk sac |

Unit 3: 2 to 3 Weeks

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| 2 weeks, 1 day | — | ■ 3 germ layers ■ Rostral-caudal orientation |
| 2 weeks, 2 days | — | ■ Erythroblasts in yolk sac ■ Three types of blood-forming cells in yolk sac ■ Amnion with two cell layers ■ Secondary villi |

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| 2 weeks, 4 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foregut, midgut, and hindgut Brain is first organ to appear Connecting stalk |
| 2 weeks, 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neural plate induced by notochordal process |
| 2 weeks, 6 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous blood islands in umbilical vesicle Foregut Stomodeum forming Beginnings of the heart can be seen Blood vessels emerge simultaneously in umbilical vesicle, embryo proper, amnion, and connecting stalk Dorsal aortae (paired) Paired tubular heart Forebrain, midbrain, and hindbrain Neural groove deepens substantially Three main divisions of brain Neural crest: Rostral and facial |
| 3 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood and blood vessels |
| Unit 4: 3 to 4 Weeks | |
| 3 weeks, 1 day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midgut emerging Respiratory outgrowth Atria (right and left) far apart Circulatory system function begins Endocardial tubes fuse forming tubular heart Heart begins beating Pericardium Primary head vein Sinus venosus Tubular heart begins folding Umbilical arteries Umbilical veins (right and left) Neural tube Body cavities Hyoid arch |
| 3 weeks, 3 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thyroid complete Cystic primordium Liver Membrane between future mouth and throat may begin to rupture Neuropore (near brain) closes Notochord |
| 3 weeks, 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First part of pancreas Pharyngeal arch 3 Lung bud Descending aorta Internal carotid arteries |

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| | Unidirectional circulation |
| | Brain involves 40% of neural tube |
| | Lowermost spinal cord formation begins |
| | Neural tube closes (lower back) |
| | Somites: Pairs 21 through 29 |
| | Upper limb primordium at level of somites 8 to 10 |
| | Progressively C-shaped embryo |
| 4 weeks | Skin is so thin, you can see through it! |
| | Esophagus primordia |
| | Intestines growing in length |
| | Pancreas: Ventral pancreas |
| | Pharynx |
| | Small & large intestines |
| | Bronchial buds |
| | Lungs begin filling chest cavity |
| | Trachea |
| | Circulatory system "well established" |
| | Functioning two-chamber heart |
| | Heart chambers bulging with fluid |
| | Heart now functions as two parallel pumps |
| | Heart rate (about) 113 beats/min |
| | Most cranial nerve ganglia |
| | Cerebellum |
| | Fourth ventricle |
| | Amnion surrounds embryo |
| | Limb buds - the first sign of arms and legs |
| | Lower limb buds |
| | Umbilical cord emerging |
| | Upper and lower limb buds |

Unit 5: 4 to 5 Weeks

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| 4 weeks, 3 days | Early eyes |
| 4 weeks, 3 days - 5 weeks | Germ cells migrate to gonads |
| 4 weeks, 4 days | Lungs: Right and left primary (or main stem) bronchi |
| | Sinu-atrial (SA) node |
| | Eyes located on sides of head |
| | Lens pits |
| | Brain enlarges 50% since Carnegie Stage 13 |
| | Brain: Cerebral hemispheres appear and begin rapid growth |
| | Brain: Lateral ventricles |
| 4 weeks, 5 days | Caecum |
| | Blood vessels penetrate diencephalon |
| | Coronary arteries (terminal end) |
| | Nose: Nasal pits |
| | Optic chiasm |

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| | Brain with five main sections |
| | First nerve fibers |
| | Hypothalamus |
| | Most cranial nerves seen |
| | Synapses among motor neurons in spinal cord |
| | Third ventricle |
| 5 weeks | ACTH [adrenocorticotropin hormone] |
| | Growth hormone |
| | Pituitary gland |
| | Limb buds form hand plates |
| | Permanent kidneys |
| | Bronchial tree branching accelerates |
| | Lobar pattern mimics adult pattern |
| | Pacemaker cells |
| | Head is one third of entire embryo |

Unit 6: 5 to 6 Weeks

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| 5 weeks, 1 day | Wrist joints are forming |
| 5 weeks, 2 days | Thyroid detaches from pharynx |
| | Atrioventricular (AV) node |
| | Circle of Willis almost complete |
| | Cochlear nerve present |
| | Musculocutaneous, radial, ulna, and median nerves enter upper limb bud |
| | All cranial nerves identifiable |
| 5½ weeks | Initial tooth formation |
| 5½ weeks - 6 weeks | Subtle movement begins |
| 5 weeks, 4 days | Cartilage formation |
| 5 weeks, 5 days | Nerve cells differentiating |
| 5 weeks, 5 days - 7 weeks, 1 day | Melanocytes in epidermis |
| 5 weeks, 6 days | Cartilage in occipital sclerotomes (1-4) |
| | Primordial vermiform appendix |
| | All spinal nerves present |
| | Dura begins forming in basal area |
| | Frontal and temporal poles of cerebral hemispheres |
| | Somites: Pairs 38 and 39 |
| | Synapses in spinal cord between interneurons and primary afferent neurons |
| 6 weeks | Face withdraws from light touch around mouth |
| | Blood forming in liver |
| | Nipples along side of trunk |
| | Adrenal glands |
| | Glucagon in pancreas |
| | Handplates develop subtle flattening |
| | Joints |

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| | Tooth buds (primary teeth) |
| | Diaphragm is largely formed |
| | Intestines fill base of umbilical cord |
| | External ears |
| | Synapses form in spinal cord |
| | Crown-heel length 1.6 cm |

Unit 7: 6 to 7 Weeks

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| 6 weeks, 2 days | Elbow regions sometimes identifiable |
| | Hands polygon-shaped |
| | Toe rays sometimes present |
| | Submandibular gland primordia |
| | Inferior vena cava |
| | Origin of left coronary artery |
| | Optic fibers |
| | Eyelid folds sometimes present |
| | Brainwave activity has begun |
| | Cerebrospinal fluid production begins |
| 6½ weeks | The hands begin to move |
| | Volar pads on palms |
| | Bones first form in the collar bones and lower jaw |
| 6 weeks, 5 days | Beginnings of occipital and sphenoid bones |
| | Cartilaginous styloid process |
| | Humerus, radius, and ulna |
| | Deltoid muscle |
| | Anal membrane |
| | Lung, left: Oblique fissure defines upper and lower lobes |
| | Circulus arteriosus (Circle of Willis) complete |
| | Origin of right coronary artery |
| | Tricuspid and mitral valves |
| | Primitive nasal cavity |
| | Eyelids: Upper and lower lids present and growing |
| | Occipital pole of cerebral hemispheres |
| 6 weeks, 6 days | Feet polygon-shaped |
| | Cloacal membrane ruptures |
| 7 weeks | Head rotates |
| | Leg movements |
| | B lymphocytes in liver |
| | Ovaries |
| | Testes begin to differentiate |
| | Insulin in pancreas |
| | Foot plates notched |
| | Hiccups |
| | Tendons attach muscle to bone |
| | The heart has four chambers and is nearly complete. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The heart rate peaks at 165 to 170 beats per minute. Crown-heel length 2.2 cm |
| Unit 8: 7 to 8 Weeks | |
| 7 weeks, 1 day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper limbs with slightly flexed elbows ■ Sacrocaudal spinal cord formation (secondary neurulation) complete |
| 7 weeks, 1 day - 8 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stomach: Folds in stomach wall |
| 7 weeks, 2 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arteries and veins of heart complete |
| 7 weeks, 3 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knee joints have arrived Wrists slightly flexed ■ Eyelids growing rapidly ■ Cerebral hemispheres cover more than half of diencephalon |
| 7½ weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hands begin to touch face ■ The hands touch each other as do the feet! Fingertips thicken Plantar pads toes ■ EKG pattern similar to adult |
| 7 weeks, 4 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fingers are free |
| 7 weeks, 5 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bone-forming cells called osteoblasts emerge Hands can reach one another and fingers can overlap ■ Brain: Internal capsule with connections to epithalamus, dorsal thalamus, and mesencephalon ■ Cerebral hemispheres cover 75% of diencephalon ■ Cortical plate expanding rapidly |
| 7 weeks, 6 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The toes are free |
| 8 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complex response to touch ■ More frequent hand-to-face contact ■ Mouth opens & closes ■ Squinting ■ The embryo floats and rolls over in the womb Hairs first appear in eyebrows & around mouth Skin multi-layered, loses transparency ■ Male embryos are making testosterone already! The embryo's joints are similar to adult joints ■ Diaphragm complete ■ Esophagus: Longitudinal muscles ■ Urethra ■ Urine production and release ■ Peristalsis in large intestine ■ Occasional breathing motions begin ■ Blood supply to the brain closely resembles adult pattern Cranial nerve distribution mimics adult pattern Retina: Four of the ten adult layers present |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tympanic membrane |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> "The hindbrain "presents striking resemblance to that of the newborn." |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain represents 43% of embryo |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Grey and white matter |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Right- and left-handedness emerges |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown-heel length 4.3 cm |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Embryo contains approximately 1 billion (10 ⁹) cells |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Embryonic Period Ends |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> The embryo has more than 4,000 parts (adults have about 4,500) |

Unit 9: 8 to 9 Weeks









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| 8½ weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyelids completely fused |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Neurons synapse in cerebral cortex (marginal zone) |
| 9 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Bends hip & knee if sole of foot touched |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fluid is becoming routine |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sucking the thumb |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> The young fetus now sighs, stretches, moves the head, opens the mouth, and moves the tongue |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongue movement |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Female fetuses have early reproductive cells in their ovaries |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid gland weighs 2 grams |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Small intestine peristalsis |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Face, hands, and feet sense light touch |

Unit 10: 9 to 10 Weeks















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| 9 weeks - 10 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Early vocal cords |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> My weight will rise more than 75% this week |
| 9½ weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> I yawn when I want |
| 9 weeks, 4 days | <input type="checkbox"/> Yawns |
| 10 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Eyes roll downward reflexively |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Palatine tonsils |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Fingernails and toenails begin to grow! |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Three-layered epidermis |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tiny unique fingerprints have arrived! |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Now, all the bones are getting harder |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tooth buds (secondary teeth) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Glomeruli formation begins |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Physiologic herniation ends |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Corpus callosum begins |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown-heel length 7.5 cm |

Unit 11: 10 to 11 Weeks



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| 10 weeks - 12 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Langerhans cells enter epidermis |
| 10½ weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Volar and plantar pads regress |
| 11 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> The face now makes complex expressions |

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| |  Immunological competence |
| |  Intermediate layer |
| |  Nose & lips completely formed |
| |  Now you can tell if your baby is a girl or a boy! |
| |  Thyroid gland weighs 12 grams |
| |  Intestines absorb water & glucose |
| |  Auditory cells: inner & outer hair cells |
| |  Crown-heel length |

Unit 12: 11 to 12 Weeks

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| 11 weeks - 12 weeks |  Weight increases by 60% this week |
| 12 weeks |  Hands touch the mouth up to 50 times per hour |
| |  T lymphocytes leave thymus |
| |  Many different hormones are present in pituitary gland |
| |  Thyroid gland produces hormone |
| |  Palate fuses |
| |  Upper limbs reach final proportion |
| |  Bladder resembles smooth muscle |
| |  Bile production begins in liver |
| |  Bowel movements |
| |  There are taste buds all over the mouth |
| |  Corpus callosum |
| |  Crown-heel length 12 cm |
| |  Head circumference 10 cm |

Unit 13: 3 to 4 Months

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| 13 weeks |  Teeth are growing |
| |  Cilia lining airways |
| |  Most of body sensitive to touch |
| |  Crown-heel length 15 cm |
| 14 weeks |  Girls move their jaws more than the boys do |
| |  Light touch to mouth evokes turn toward stimulus |
| |  4-lobed cerebral cortex |
| |  Cerebellum resembles adult structure |
| |  Crown-heel length 17 cm |
| |  Fat deposits in cheeks |
| 15 weeks |  Stem cells arrive in bone marrow |
| |  Body fat emerges throughout the body |
| |  Glucagon in fetal bloodstream |
| |  Digestive enzymes |
| |  Crown-heel length 19.5 cm |
| 16 weeks |  Quickening |
| |  Fat deposits upper & lower limbs |
| |  Tooth enamel |
| |  Bronchial tree nearly complete |
| |  Hormonal stress response to invasive procedures |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Crown-heel length 21 cm |
| Unit 14: 4 to 5 Months | |
| 17 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Retina has discrete layers |
| 18 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cream-like substance protects skin ■ Sweat glands ■ Insulin secretion ■ Speaking motion of larynx ■ Corpus callosum complete |
| 19 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Melanin production ■ Number of oogonia peak (at about 7 million) within fetal ovaries ■ Daily cycles in biological rhythms |
| 20 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All skin layers and structures ■ Surfactant production (low levels) ■ Hearing and responding to sound begins ■ Hearing and responding to sound begins □ Crown-heel length 28 cm □ Head circumference 20 cm |
| Unit 15: 5 to 6 Months | |
| 20 weeks - 24 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eyelids separate, eyes open and close |
| 21 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stratum corneum |
| 21 weeks - 22 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ If born prematurely from this point on, survival is possible |
| 22 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cornea structure ■ Behavioral states |
| 23 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Brain weight 100 grams |
| 24 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blink-startle response; females before males □ Crown-heel length 34.5 cm |
| Unit 16: 6 to 7 Months | |
| 25 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Intestinal lining contains all adult cell types ■ Rods & cones ■ The ability to taste |
| 26 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Additional fat deposits decrease wrinkles ■ Tear production ■ The ability to smell has arrived |
| 26 weeks - 38 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Brain weight increases 400% to 500% |
| 27 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pupils react to light |
| 28 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Distinguishes sounds of different frequencies □ Crown-heel length 39.5 cm |
| Unit 17: 7 to 8 Months | |
| 30 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Breathing motions are common even though there is no air in the womb ■ 6-layered cerebral cortex □ Head circumference 30 cm |
| 32 weeks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Esophagus: Lower esophagus muscles functional |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glomeruli formation complete |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alveoli |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Memory - music preferences |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown-heel length 45 cm |

Unit 18: 8 to 9 Months

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| 32 weeks - 36 weeks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prenatal food affects newborn taste preferences |
| 34 weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Rapid weight gain |
| 35 weeks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm grip |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Amniotic fluid volume peaks |
| 36 weeks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surfactant production accelerates |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain weight 300 grams |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown-heel length 48.5 cm |

Unit 19: 9 Months to Birth

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| 37 weeks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fetus drinks an estimated 15 oz (or 450cc) of amniotic fluid/day |
| 38 weeks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air breathing begins |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By term, the typical umbilical cord measures 20 to 24 inches (50 to 60 cm) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heart beats 54 million times before birth |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major circulatory changes |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spinal cord ends at third lumbar vertebrae |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain weight 350 grams |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Crown-heel length 50 cm |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Fetus initiates labor |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Head circumference 35 cm |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Time to be born! |