

Living to the full

It feels and reacts Already in the 7th week of its life a foetus moves when the mouth area is irritated. In the 9th week an embryo is capable of feeling pain with the whole surface of its body. A foetus reacts to pain like an adult; it moves away from the source of pain, moves backwards, shakes its hands and legs violently, twists its face. All the senses start functioning in the prenatal period. Hearing: a child moves when it hears a loud sound; taste: it distinguishes different tastes of foetal waters; sight: sudden lighting of its mother's belly makes a child's heart rhythm different; smell: a child is able to distinguish between nice and unpleasant smells.

It moves From the 2nd month on a child begins to move: it stretches, jumps up and down, yawns, touches its head with its hands, moves its mouth and makes faces. The films registering how a three month old foetus behaves show that a child keeps „dancing“ inside the matrix. Around 20 000 different types of moves in a day were registered in the 4th month of a child's life. A healthy child rarely remains motionless for longer than 10 minutes.

It learns about the world In the prenatal period of life a child gathers its first experiences of the world. Prenatal memory forms a child's reactions after birth. For example, one is relaxed by resting in a foetal position (in which the legs are drawn up against the chest), by dimmed light (reminding of the twilight and cosiness of the matrix), by relaxing in water (a reminder of a water environment), by rocking (similar to the rhythm of mother's breath and moves) or by rhythmical sounds (reminding of mother's heartbeat).



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The face of a child around 4 months after conception