

The child's development from conception

Day 1. The life of man begins at conception. Precisely at this moment the following features, among others, are determined: gender, eye, hair and skin colour, height tendencies, healthiness or propensity for certain illnesses.

Day 21. The child's heart starts to beat, and the brain takes shape.

Week 6. The child's spine is formed. The kidneys, lungs, liver and heart have started to function. Electromagnetic brain waves are traceable.

Week 9. The child can feel pain on almost the entire body surface. It responds to pain as an adult does – it retreats from the source of pain, draws back, rapidly moves its extremities, twists its face.

Week 10. All the vital internal organs are functioning. The limbs, as well as papillary lines on the fingertips have been formed. The child reacts to external stimuli, and it can feel pain. Further development consists only in the improvement of the functioning of the already formed organs as well as the child's growth.

Week 12. The child can draw up its legs, turn its feet, straighten toes, clench fists, knit brows. Individual features in behaviour and physique are observable; it feels and reacts to the mother's emotional states. All the organs are now functioning, e.g. the liver produces bile, the pancreas – insulin, and the pituitary gland – the growth hormone. The child is 9 cm tall and weighs 30 grams.

Week 16. The child makes 20,000 moves a day, which can be classified according to several kinetic schemes. The heart pumps about 30 litres of blood. The child is sensitive to the taste of the amniotic fluid. The sweeter the fluid, the slower the child swallows it, tasting it more carefully, while its heart beats faster.

Week 17. The child tests suction movements of its lips.

Week 20. The child acquires abilities to function in two different states: the waking state and sleep. The mother can say whether the child is asleep, has hiccups, or if it stretches itself after a nap.

Week 24. Among the 70,000 brain cells, all of a pinhead size, there are 124,000,000 connections. Around 50 per cent of the children at this phase of development react to sharp noises by a delayed reaction of fear.

Week 26. A prematurely born child can now survive on its own. It reacts to the sudden lighting of the mother's abdomen with increased moves.

Week 40. The child is born after nine months in the mother's womb, having attained around 3500g of weight and 54cm of height.



The child's legs, about 11 weeks after conception.



The child 3,5 months after conception.



The child's face 5 months after conception.

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