

## 4 Weeks Gestation

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- The brain and the spinal cord begin to form.
- The heart begins to form.
- The stomach and intestines are forming.
- Bone tissue is growing.
- The eyes and ears are just beginning to form.
- The weight is less than one ounce.
- The length is less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

## 6 Weeks Gestation

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- The lungs are beginning to form.
- Brain activity can be recorded.
- Eyes are present, but no eyelids yet.
- The heart is more developed and is beating.
- Early reflexes develop.
- The hands and feet have fingers and toes, but may still be webbed.
- The length is less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

## 8 Weeks Gestation

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- All essential organs have begun to form.
- Elbows and toes are visible.
- The fingers have grown to the first joint.
- Facial features — the eyes, nose, lips, and tongue — continue to develop.
- The outer ears begin to take shape.
- Organs begin to be controlled by the brain.
- The length is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.





## 10 Weeks Gestation

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- The unborn child is now called a *fetus*, rather than an *embryo*.
- The head is half the length of the body.
- The arms and legs are long and thin.
- The hands can make a fist with fingers.
- Red blood cells are produced.
- The length is about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.



## 12 Weeks Gestation

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- The neck is present and the face well formed.
- The eyelids close and will reopen at about 24 weeks.
- Tooth buds appear.
- The arms and legs move.
- All body parts and organs are present.
- The fibers that carry pain to the brain are developed; however, it is unknown if the unborn child is able to experience sensations such as pain.
- Definitive signs of male and female gender are present.
- A heartbeat can be heard with electronic devices.
- The length is about 2 to 3 inches.



## 14 Weeks Gestation

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- The skin is almost transparent.
- The mouth makes sucking motions.
- Amniotic fluid is swallowed.
- Sweat glands develop.
- The liver and pancreas are starting to work.
- The length is about 3 to 4 inches.

# 16 Weeks Gestation

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- Swallowing and chest movements are clearly present.
- Movement may be felt by the mother.
- The head and body become proportional.
- The neck takes shape.
- The weight is about five ounces.
- The length is about 4 to 5 inches.



# 18 Weeks Gestation

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- The arms and legs begin to punch and kick.
- The fingernails are well formed.
- The unborn child can suck its thumb.
- Taste buds are present.
- Male or female gender is evident.
- A protective waxy coating is present on the skin.
- The length is about 5 to 6 inches.



# 20 Weeks Gestation

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- Some experts have concluded that the unborn child is probably able to feel pain.
- The skin becomes less transparent as fat begins to deposit.
- Eyebrows and lashes appear.
- Breathing-like movements become regular and are detected by ultrasound, but the lungs have not developed enough to permit survival if birth occurs.
- The unborn child turns its entire body side to side and front to back.
- The length is about 6 to 7 inches.





## 22 Weeks Gestation

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- Rapid brain growth continues.
- The eyebrows and eyelashes are well formed.
- The eyes are fully functional and capable of movement.
- The vocal cords are active.
- Reflexes are present.
- There is little chance for survival outside the uterus.
- The weight is about one pound.
- The length is about 7 to 8 inches.



## 24 Weeks Gestation

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- Unique footprints and fingerprints are present.
- Outside sounds can be heard.
- Actions such as hiccuping, squinting, smiling, and frowning may be seen through ultrasound.
- The lungs have developed such that some premature babies may survive.
- Surviving premature babies may have severe disabilities and require long-term intensive care.
- The weight is about 1 to 1½ pounds.
- The length is about 8 to 9 inches.



## 26 Weeks Gestation

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- The central nervous system is developed enough to control some body functions.
- The eyelids open, close and can perceive light.
- The lungs have further matured and breathing is possible.
- The unborn child exercises muscles by kicking and stretching.
- The weight is about 1½ to 2 pounds.
- The length is about 9 to 10 inches.

# 28 Weeks Gestation

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- Brain-wave patterns resemble those of a full term baby.
- Another person can hear a heartbeat by listening to the pregnant woman's abdomen.
- There is a good chance of survival if birth occurs at this stage of development.
- The weight is about 2 to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pounds.
- The length is about 10 to 13 inches.



# 30 Weeks Gestation

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- The central nervous system has increased control over body functions.
- Rhythmic breathing movements occur.
- The lungs are not fully mature.
- The bones are fully developed, but still soft and pliable.
- The weight is about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 3 pounds.
- The length is about 15 to 16 inches.



# 32 Weeks Gestation

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- The lungs are still developing.
- Body temperature is partially under control.
- The skin is thicker, with more color.
- The connections between the nerve cells in the brain have increased.
- There is a good chance of long-term survival and the risk of long-term disability is low.
- The weight is about 3 to 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pounds.
- The length is about 16 to 17 inches.

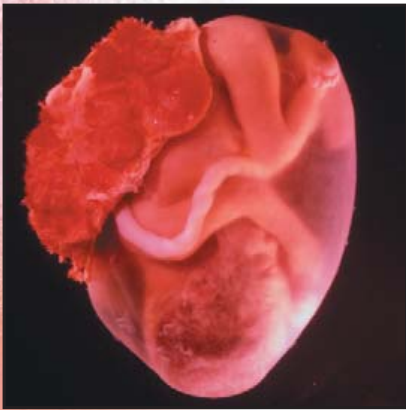




## 34 Weeks Gestation

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- The ears have begun to hold shape.
- The eyes open during alert times and close during sleep.
- There is a very good chance of survival with a low chance for long-term disability.
- The weight is about 4 to 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds.
- The length is about 17 to 18 inches.



## 36 Weeks Gestation

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- Fine hair begins to disappear.
- Body fat has increased.
- The fingernails reach the end of the fingertips.
- The chance of survival is excellent, but the newborn may require special medical care.
- The weight is about 5 to 6 pounds.
- The length is about 16 to 19 inches.



## 38 Weeks Gestation

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- A newborn is considered full-term at 38 weeks.
- The fingernails extend beyond the fingertips.
- Small breast buds are present on both sexes.
- The unborn child can grasp firmly.
- The unborn child turns toward a light source.
- The average weight is greater than 6 pounds.
- The length is about 19 to 21 inches.