






Fetal Development



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____




Time	Approximate Length/Size*	Development
1 st day/7 days	0.004 cm	<p>1st day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The egg cell and sperm combine to form a single cell with 46 chromosomes. <p>At 7 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group of cells attach to the uterine lining. It is now called an embryo.
1 month	0.6 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The heart begins to beat. The nervous and digestive systems form. The eyes and ears are visible.
2 months	2.5 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The embryo has a large head with a brain and facial characteristics. The fingers and toes appear. The embryo is called a fetus.
3 months	7.5 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The face is clearer. The first signs of the sex of the fetus appear. The excretory system develops rapidly.
4 months	15 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fetus kicks its legs and moves its arms. The skin develops.
5 months	25 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of growth slows. Fine hair develops. The parent(s) and doctor can listen to the fetal heart rate with a stethoscope. The fetus can suck its thumb.

* Pictures are not drawn to scale.

(continued)

Fetal Development (continued)



Time	Approximate Length/Size*	Development
6 months	<p style="text-align: center;">30 cm</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fetus moves more often. • The eyes are open. • Outside sound or pressure can increase fetal heartbeat.
7 months	<p style="text-align: center;">Length and weight vary.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fetus is fully developed but does not have enough fat cells to control body temperature. • It would need to be in an incubator if born. • The greatest change in length and weight occur during this month.
8 and 9 months	<p style="text-align: center;">Length: 46 to 56 cm Weight: 2.5 to 3.5 kg</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">8 months 9 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organ systems complete their development. • Fat cells form on the body. • The baby is born.

* Pictures are not drawn to scale.

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Reference: Meeks, June. *Family Living and Human Reproduction*. Columbus, OH: Charles E. Merrill Pub. Co., 1982.