

Major Events in Prenatal Development, by Month

Month	Length* at end of month (cm)	Mass at end of month (g)	Significant developmental events
1	0.4	less than 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spinal column and central nervous system start to form. ▪ Appendages are represented by small limb buds. ▪ Heart begins beating (around day 22).
2	3	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eyes form, but eyelids are fused shut. ▪ Brain waves are detectable. ▪ Nose is flat. ▪ Bone growth begins. ▪ Head is nearly as large as rest of body. ▪ Blood cells and major blood vessels form. ▪ Nostrils are evident, but plugged with mucus. ▪ Genitals are present, but sexes are not yet distinguishable. ▪ Limb buds form paddle-like hands and form ridges (which later separate into distinct fingers and toes).
3	9	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eyes are well developed, but eyelids are still fused. ▪ Limbs are well-formed, with nails on fingers and toes. ▪ Nose develops bridge. ▪ External ears are present. ▪ Fetus swallows amniotic fluid and produces urine. ▪ Fetus moves but too weakly for mother to feel it. ▪ Sexes can be distinguished visually.
4	14	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Face looks more distinctly human. ▪ Joints are forming. ▪ Body is larger in proportion to head. ▪ Lips exhibit sucking movements.

Major Events in Prenatal Development, by Month (cont'd)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skin is bright pink. ▪ Heartbeat can be heard with a stethoscope. ▪ Scalp has hair.
5	19	200–450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Body covered with fine hair (lanugo). ▪ Mother can feel fetal movements. ▪ Skin has oily secretion to protect it from amniotic fluid. ▪ Skin is bright pink. ▪ Fetus is now bent forward into “fetal position” because it is beginning to outgrow the amniotic sac.
6	27–35	550–800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eyes are open. ▪ Skin is wrinkled, pink, and translucent. ▪ Eyelashes form.
7	32–42	1100–1350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skin is wrinkled and red. ▪ Testes descend into scrotum. ▪ Fetus turns to an upside-down position. ▪ Fetus can usually survive if born prematurely. ▪ Bone marrow is now the only site for red blood cell formation.
8	41–45	2000–2300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fatty tissue deposition gives fetus a more plump, “babyish” appearance, with lighter, less wrinkled skin. ▪ Twins are usually born now.
9	50	3200–3500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More fat deposition occurs. ▪ Nails extend to or beyond fingertips. ▪ Lanugo is shed. ▪ Birth is imminent.

*Length is measured from the top of the head to the bottom of the buttocks (often referred to as the crown-to-rump, or CR, length).