

TIME LINE OF PRENATAL DEVELOPMENT

WEEKS

2	OVUM/ZYGOTE PERIOD	Morula Blastocyst
8	EMBRYONIC PERIOD	Primitive heart develops and begins to beat (18-22nd day) Every feature and vital organ is started Embryo is about 1-2 inches long, 2-3 grams No eye lids--eyes are open
12		Fetus can move arms and legs and swallow Bone cells begin to replace cartilage Eyes shut External sex organs begin to show differences 3 inches long and weighs 3/4-1 ounce
16		Mother will feel first movements Fetus becoming larger and stronger One half expected birth length (6-8 inches) Weighs about 6 ounces First thin transparent layer of skin begins to replace the temporary protective membrane
20	FETAL PERIOD	Internal organs are well developed 12 inches long and about 1 pound in weight Active and energetic Basic reflexes established Can hear heart beat
24		Fine hair begins to grow on head Nails appear May suck thumb 1 1/2 pounds, 13-14 inches long
28		Viability attained. If born now, there is a good chance of living 14-15 inches long, 2 1/4 pounds Eye lids open and close
		In the last three months, the fetus gains 5-6 additional pounds and 3-5 inches in length Movement is good, muscular tone is sustained The fetus responds to light and sound Accumulates essential immunities to disease Lungs are mature Strength and coordination improve
		Prenatal growth is amazingly rapid. If such a rate of growth continued after birth, a baby would weigh 160 pounds on his/her first birthday!