Fetal Development



0-13 Weeks



14-27 Weeks

fetus retain body heat until

The fetus doubles in size

and weight. Fetal move-

it accumulates fat.

16 Weeks



The longer the pregnancy, the higher the likelihood of a healthier birth outcome.

Third Trimester

28-40 Weeks

controlled by the central nervous system.



0-2 Weeks

4 Weeks

A home pregnancy test

should display a positive

formed during fertilization

result. The ball of cells

have developed into an

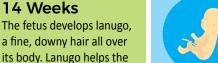
embryo in the uterus.

Pregnancy begins after the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP).

ነ⁄₆ of an inch long



31/2 inches







30 Weeks

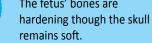
Major fetal development is complete. The fetus begins rapidly gaining weight.



16 inches, 3.5 lbs.



32 Weeks The fetus' bones are





1/4 of an inch long

1/8 of an inch long

6 Weeks

8 Weeks

An embryo's major systems and structures, e.g. the brain and spinal cord, develop. The neural tube closes, and the heart beats at a regular rhythm.



41/2 inches

51/2 inches



20 Weeks

may be felt.

Fetal organs and structures have been formed. An ultrasound may reveal the sex of the fetus.

This is the halfway point of

pregnancy. The fetus is now

coating, called vernix caseosa,

covered in a cheese-like

which protects its skin.



34 Weeks

The kidneys are fully developed and the liver can process some waste products.



36 Weeks

The fetus gains about an ounce a day and fat develops under the skin.



The embryo is now called a fetus. All key body parts are present. The brain continues to grow and the lungs begin to form.

The critical part of develop-

ment is complete. Tissues,

kidneys, the brain, liver, and

intestines are beginning to



10 inches long

Fetal facial features are more distinct.

22 Weeks

24 Weeks



18.5 in, 5.5 lbs.

19.5 inches, 6.8 lbs.

The lanugo is mostly shed, all over to keep warm after birth.



1¼ inches long

12 Weeks

function.

10 Weeks

The fetus is able to swallow, the kidneys make urine, and reflexes have developed. External genitals have formed.



12 inches, 7 oz.



26 Weeks

are developing.

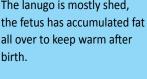
The lungs are developing surfactant, the substance that allows the lungs to inflate. The fetus begins to inhale and exhale-practicing breathing movements.

The brain is growing rapidly.

Taste buds and the lungs



38 Weeks





40 Weeks

This fetus is fully developed. The due date arrives but is just an estimate; it is normal to give birth before or after this date.



VDHLiveWell.com/familyplanning