

4 months

Child can grasp with hands, swim and turn somersaults.

4-5 months

Mother first feels baby's movements.

5 months

Sleeping habits appear, but a slammed door will provoke activity. Child responds to sounds in frequencies too high or low for adults to hear.

6 months

Fine hair grows on eyebrows and head. Eyelash fringe appears. Weight is about 640 g, height 23 cm. Babies born at this age have survived.

7 months

Eye teeth are present. Eyelids open and close, eyes look around. Hands grip strongly. Mother's

voice is heard and recognized.

8 months

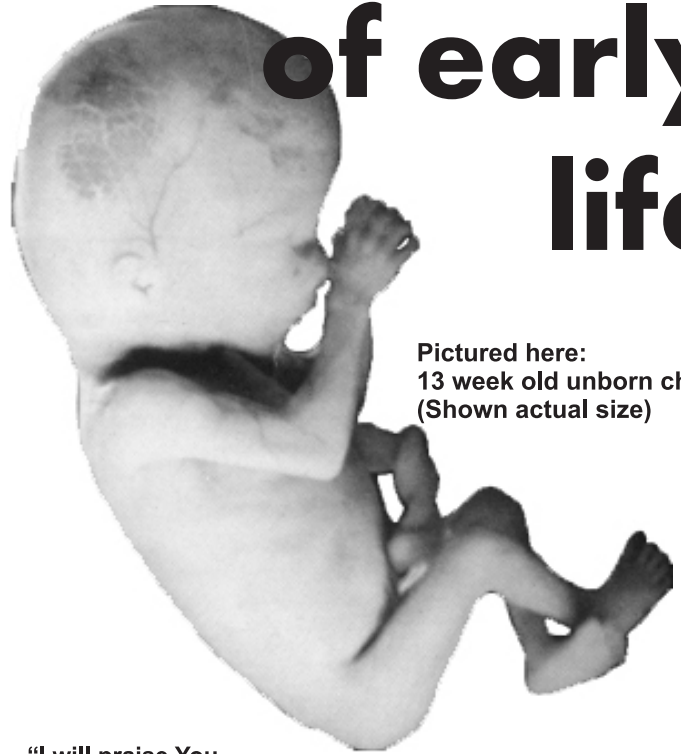
Weight increases by 1 kg and baby's quarters get cramped.

9 months

Child triggers labour and birth occurs, usually 255-275 days after conception. Of 45 generations of cell divisions before adulthood, 41 have already taken place. Four more will come during the rest of childhood and adolescence.

The milestones listed above have been documented by scientific research. Slight variations, of hours and days, may exist and future research may show that some milestones occur earlier than is now realised.

milestones of early life



**Pictured here:
13 week old unborn child
(Shown actual size)**

**"I will praise You,
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."
Psalm 139:14**



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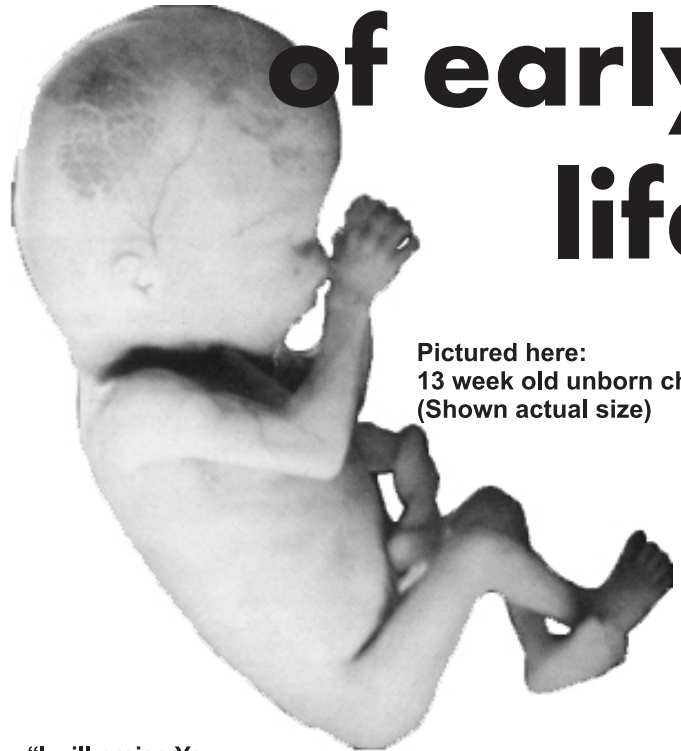
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Our first nine months of life must have been the most eventful we have ever experienced. Here are the major milestones of that life before birth - the first chapter in your own biography:

Conception

The father's sperm penetrates the mother's egg cell. Genetic instructions from both parents interact to begin a new and unique individual - no bigger than a grain of sugar.

1st day

The first cell divides into two, the two into four, and so on.

5-9 days (first week)

The new individual burrows into the wall of the womb.

14 days (second week)

Mother's menstrual period is suppressed by a hormone produced by her child.

18 days

Heart is forming. Soon eyes start to develop.

20 days (third week)

Foundations of brain, spinal cord and nervous system are laid.

24 days

Heart begins to beat.

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28 days (fourth week)

Muscles are developing along the future spine. Arms and legs are budding.

30 days (first month) Child has grown 10,000 times to 6-7 mm long. Brain has human proportions. Blood flows in veins (but stays separate from mother's blood).

35 days (fifth week) Pituitary gland in brain is forming. Mouth, ears and nose are taking shape.

40 days

Heart's energy output is 20 per cent of adult's.

42 days (sixth week)

Skeleton is formed. Brain coordinates movement of muscles and organs. Reflex responses have begun. Penis is forming in boys. (Mother



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misses second period.)

43 days

Brain waves can be recorded.

45 days

Spontaneous movements have begun. Buds of milk teeth have appeared.

7 weeks

Lips are sensitive to touch. Ears may resemble family pattern.

8 weeks

Child is well proportioned. Now a small scale baby, 3 cm and weighing a gram. Every organ is present. Heart beats sturdily. Stomach produces digestive juices. Liver makes blood cells. Kidneys begin to function. Taste buds are forming.

8 1/2 weeks (second month)

Fingerprints are being engraved.



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Eyelids and palms of hands are sensitive to touch.

9 weeks

Child will bend fingers around an object placed in the palm. Thumb sucking occurs. Finger nails are now forming.

10 weeks

Body is sensitive to touch. Child squints, swallows, puckers up brow and frowns.

11 weeks

Baby urinates, makes complex facial expressions - even smiles.

12 weeks

Vigorous activity shows distinct individuality. Child can kick, turn feet, curl and fan toes, make a fist, move thumbs, bend wrists, turn head, open mouth and press lips tightly together. Breathing is practiced.

13 weeks (third month)

Face is prettier, facial expressions resembling parents'. Movements are graceful, reflexes vigorous. Vocal chords are formed (but without air baby cannot cry). Sex organs are apparent

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