

Human Development

Human Baby

Nine months is the usual length of time a human baby spends in its mother's womb. There, it gradually grows, month by month, until it is time for it to be born. Some babies are born before the nine months are up – this is called a premature birth. However, the majority of babies follow this series of steps as it grows in the womb for nine months:

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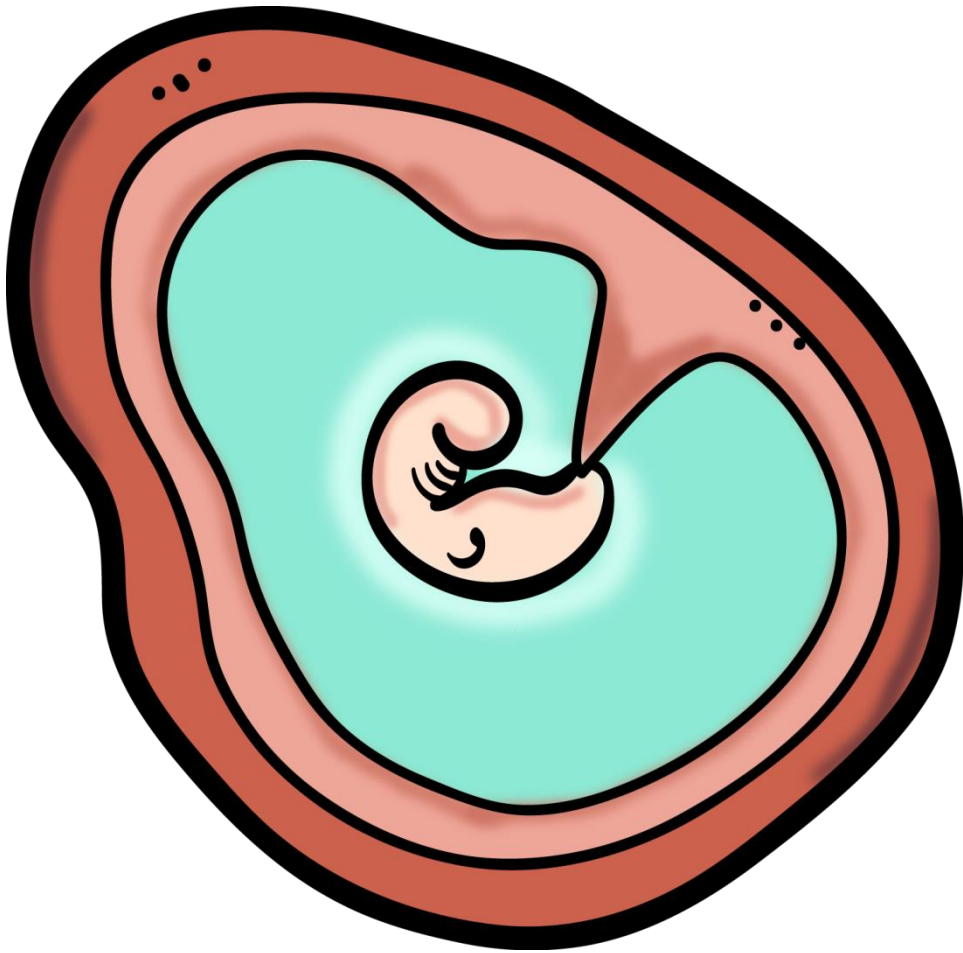
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1st day

1st Day

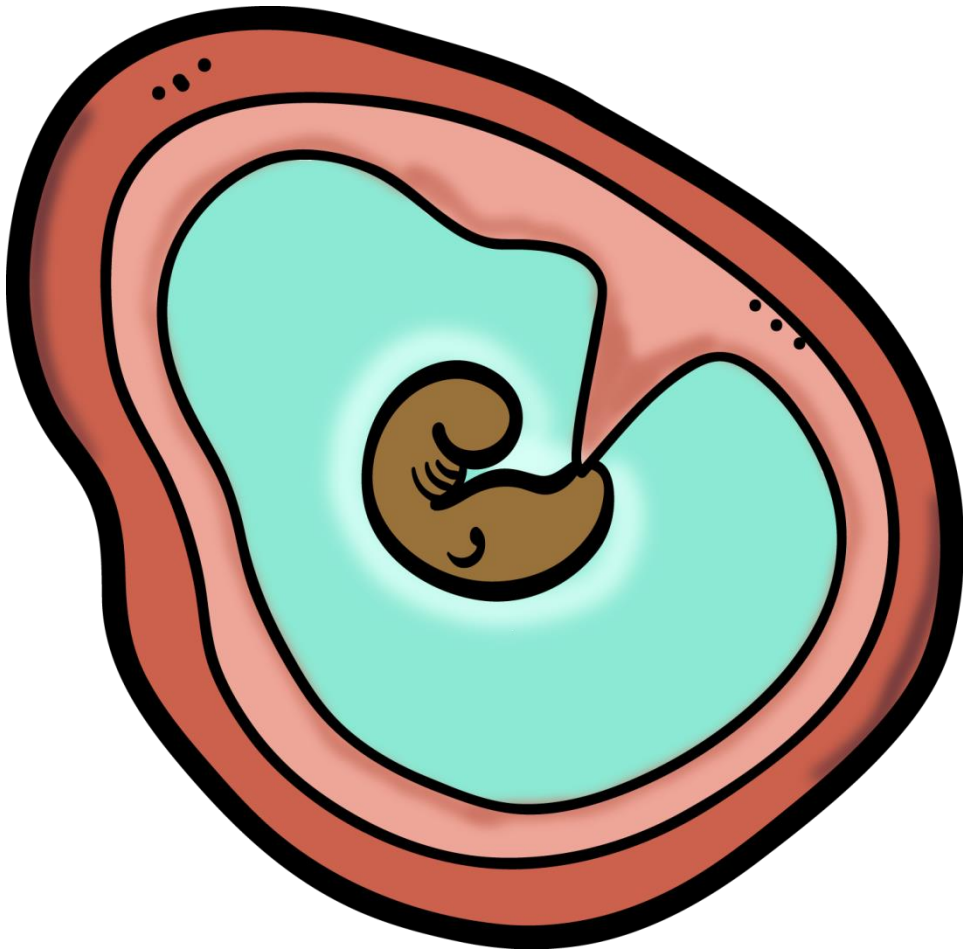
The baby starts off as a round fertilised egg. It is very, very small, around the size of a full stop on a page. The mother's womb has prepared a soft lining to make a comfortable place for the baby to grow over the following nine months.

Human Development



1st month

Human Development



1st month

1st Month

During the first month, the baby settles into the womb which is a safe and comfortable place for it to grow. It is still very tiny, about 2mm, and looks a bit like a little sea horse! The heart starts to beat around the twenty-fifth or twenty-sixth day.

Human Development



2nd month

Human Development



2nd month

2nd Month

During the second month, the baby's arms and legs start to grow and it starts to move about. The mother doesn't notice these movements as the baby is still very small. The baby is beginning to look a bit more like a baby.

Human Development



3rd month

Human Development



3rd month

3rd Month

The baby is still very small, only about 8cm long. It is now possible to tell if it is boy or a girl. The baby's eyes are closed. It moves both its arms and legs about. It is gradually growing stronger.

Human Development



4th month

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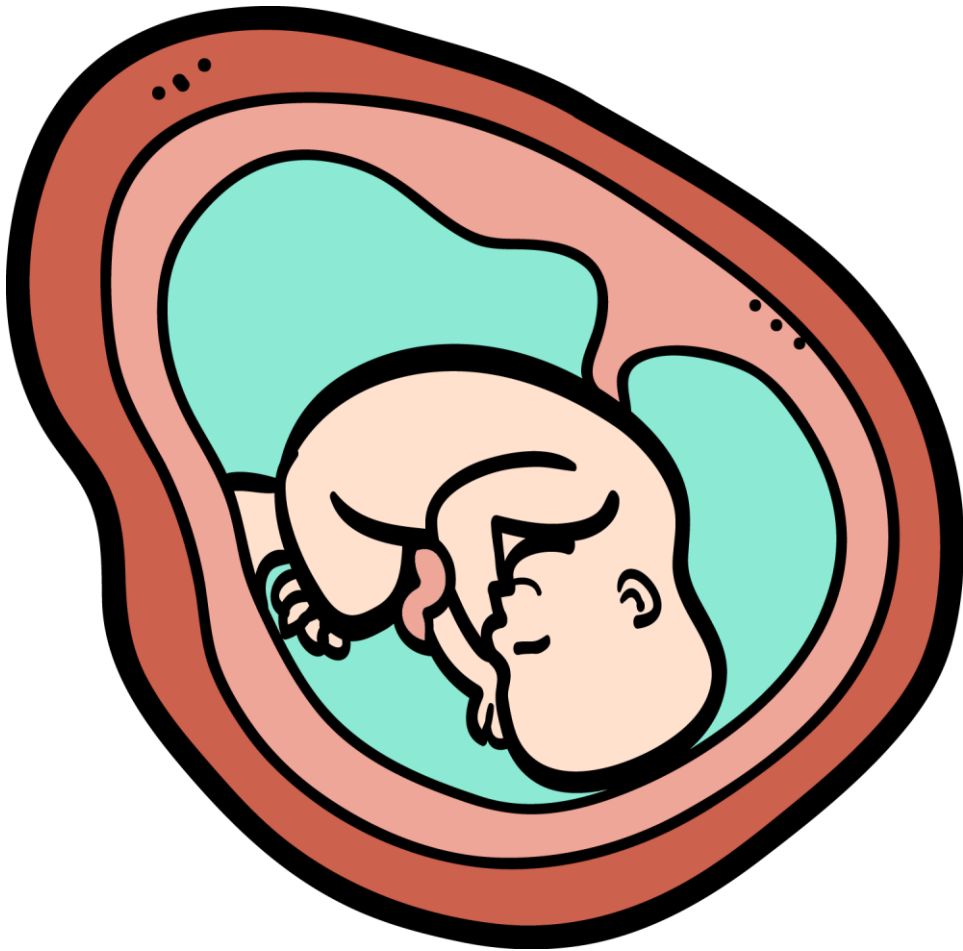


4th month

4th Month

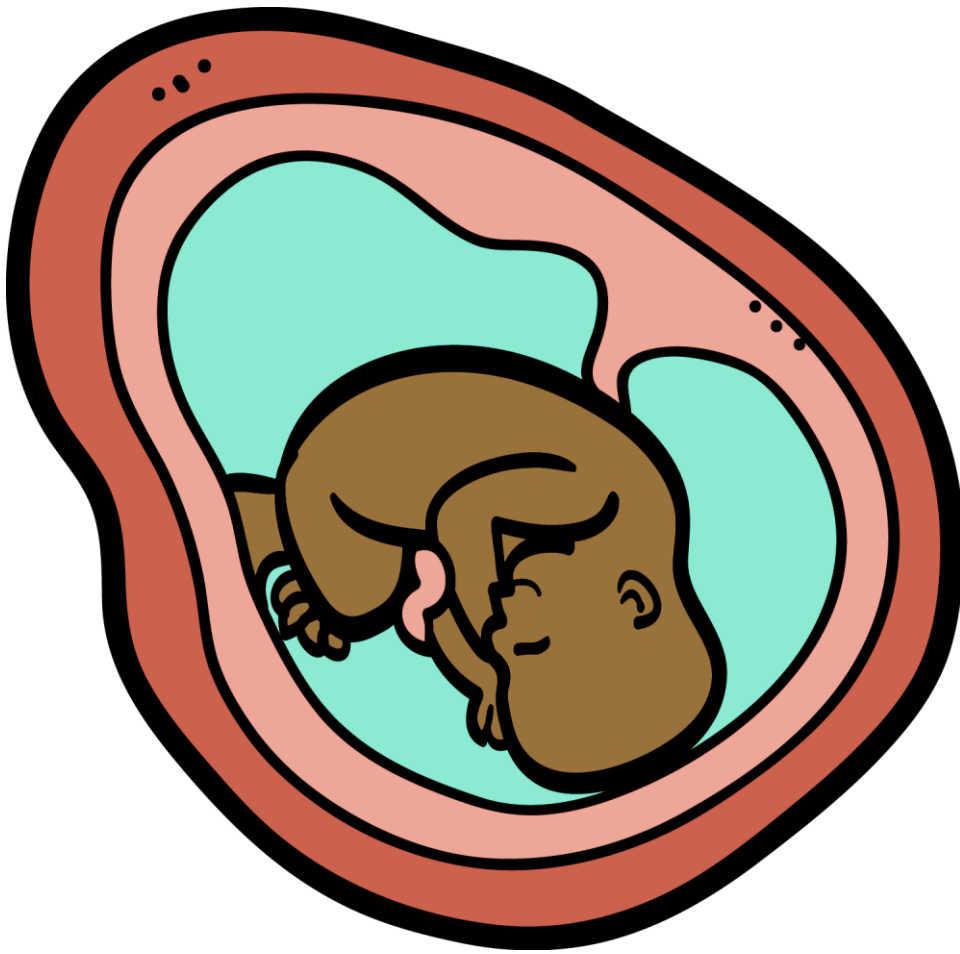
The baby continues to grow and is now approximately 16cm long. At this stage, most of the important parts of the body have grown. The baby even has fingerprints! The baby just needs to grow bigger and stronger.

Human Development



5th month

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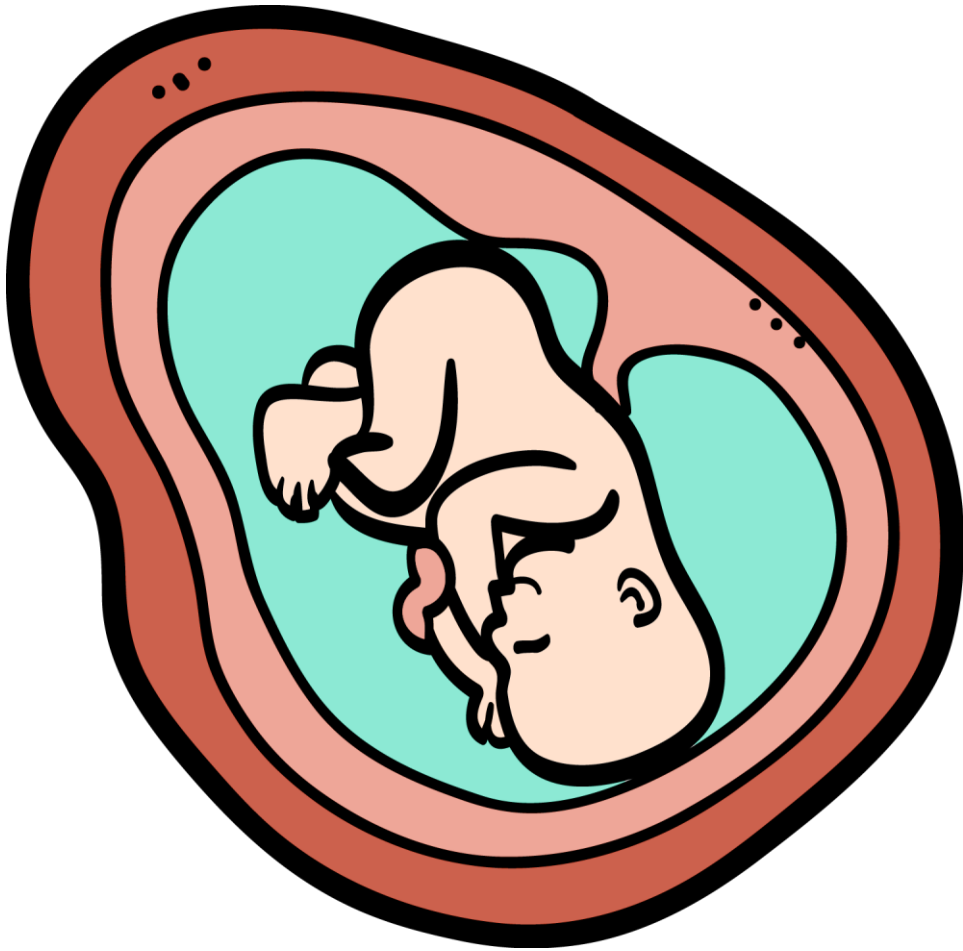


5th month

5th Month

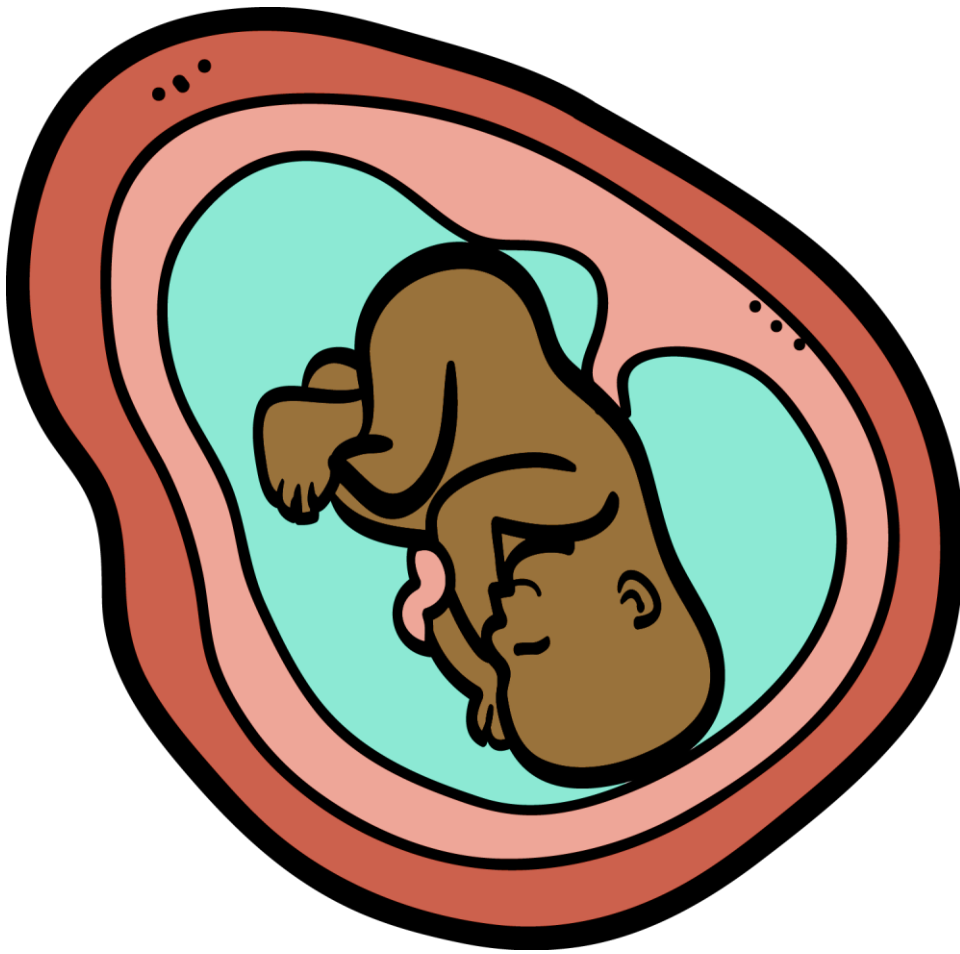
The baby has now grown to approximately 25cm long and could fit in the palm of an adult. The baby continues to move inside the womb and the mother can now feel these movements.

Human Development



6th month

Human Development

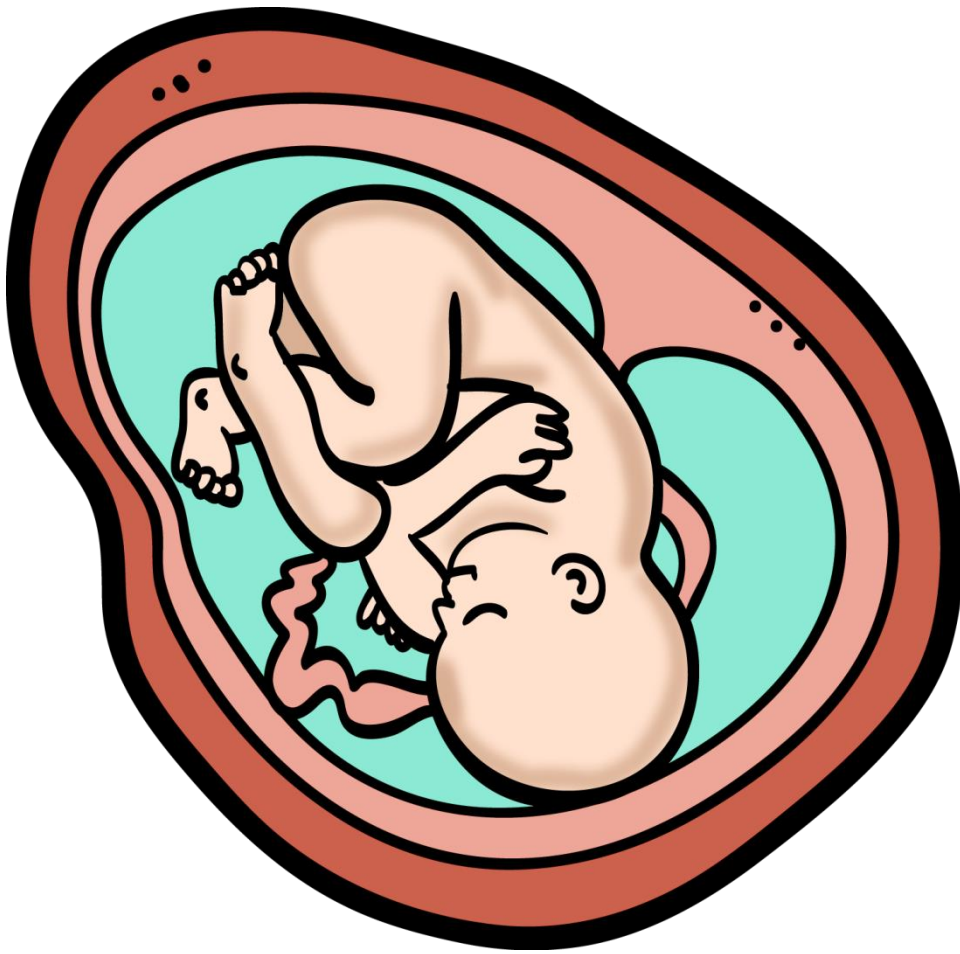


6th month

6th Month

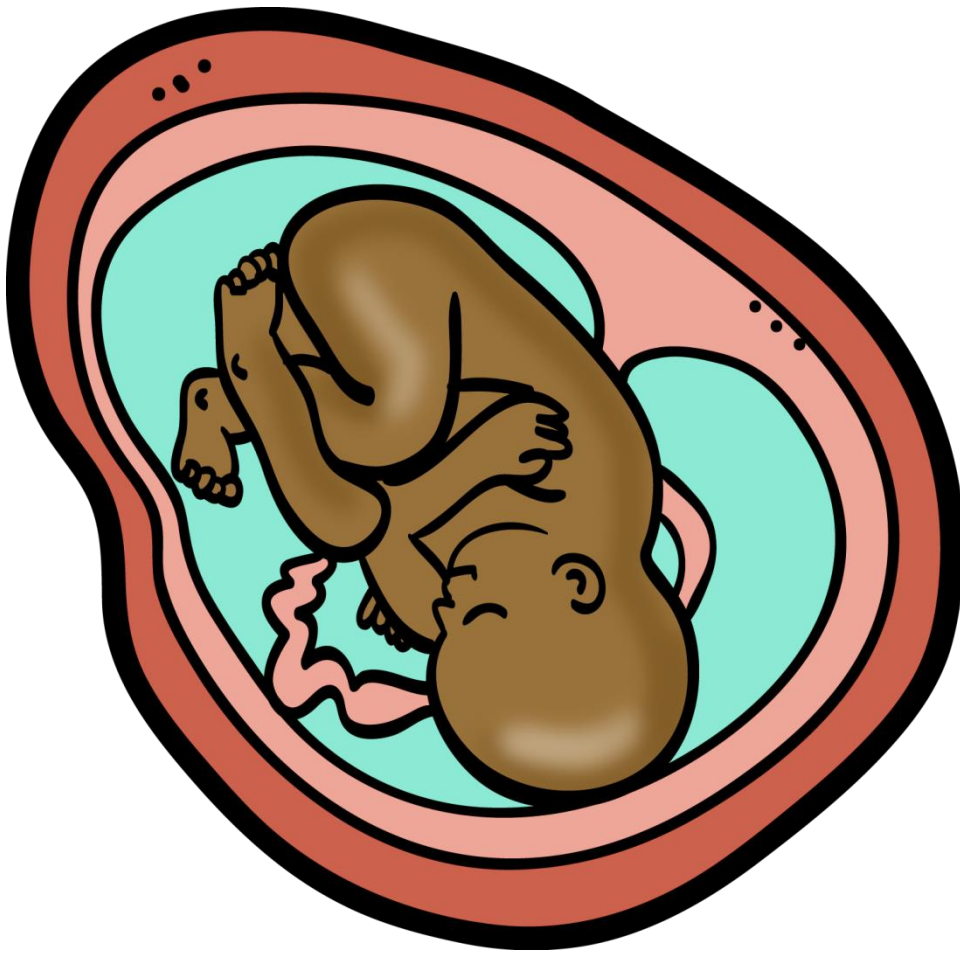
The baby can now hear its mother's heart beating, voices and music. It spends some of its time awake and some time asleep. The baby can kick, grasp fingers and toes and even suck its thumb!

Human Development



7th month

Human Development



7th month

7th Month

While the baby continues to grow, it is still too early to be born. Some of its internal organs like the heart, lungs and stomach still need more time to develop. If the baby was born at this stage, it would need specialist medical care.

Human Development



8th month

Human Development

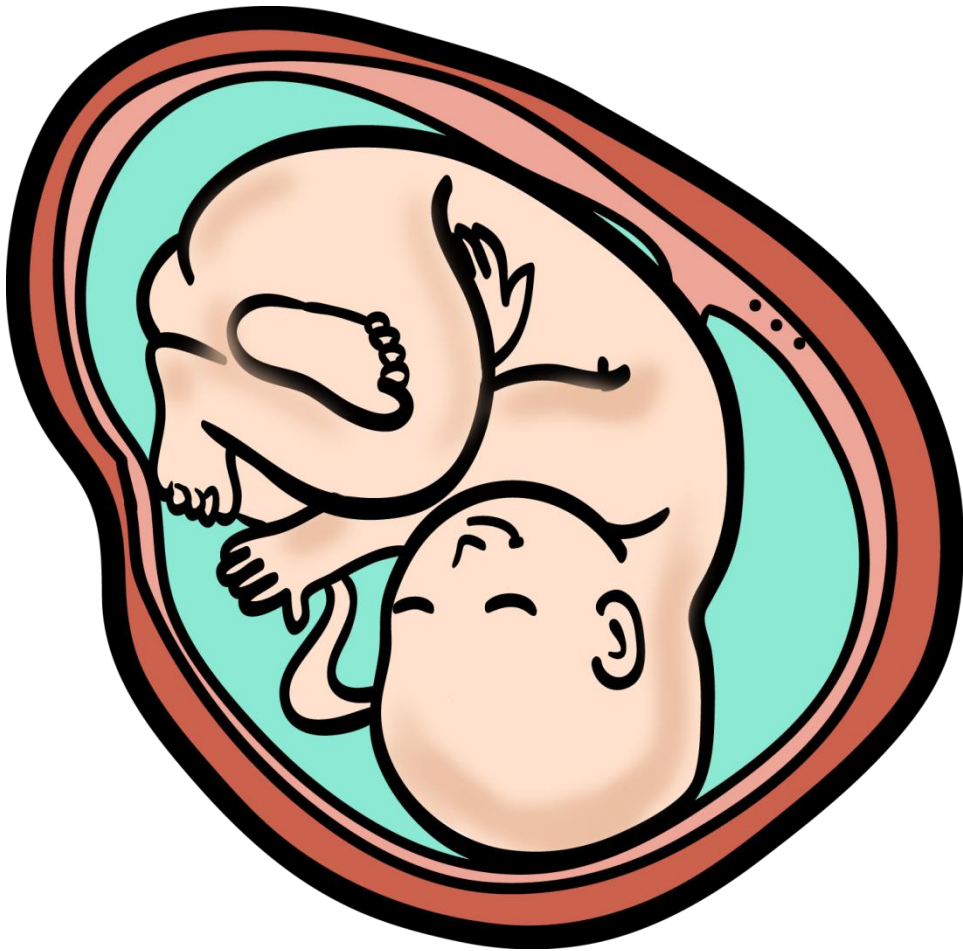


8th month

8th Month

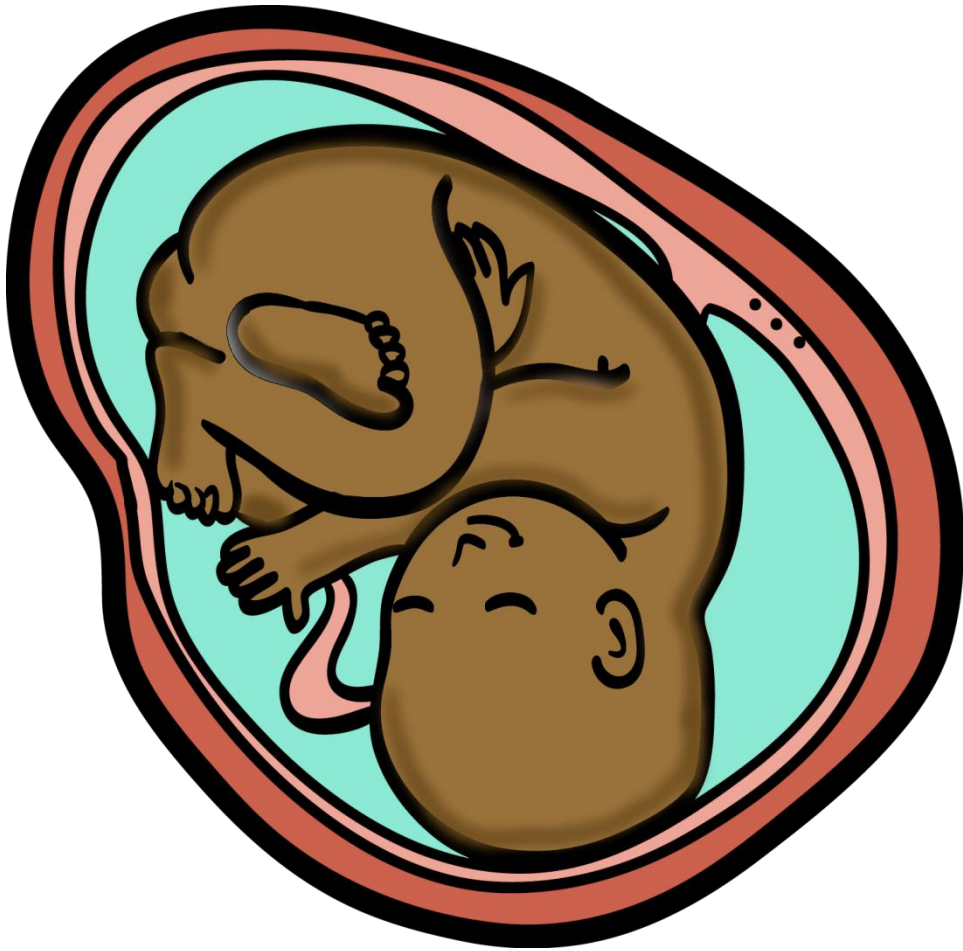
The baby has grown so much, there is less room to move about in the womb. It spends a little time awake and the rest asleep. The baby practises breathing. The heart, stomach and lungs have continued to develop in preparation for the outside world.

Human Development



9th month

Human Development



9th month

9th Month

The baby has now grown to full term and is almost ready to be born. It is strong enough to leave the comfort and safety of the womb, a place where it has grown steadily over the past nine months. The baby is ready to greet the world.

Resources used in this file:



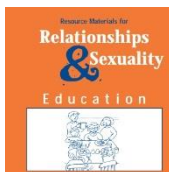
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