

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD IN THE WOMB

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3 TRIMESTERS

The development of a child in the womb is divided into 3 stages, also known as trimesters.

In these stages the fetus develops its vital organs and begins to grow

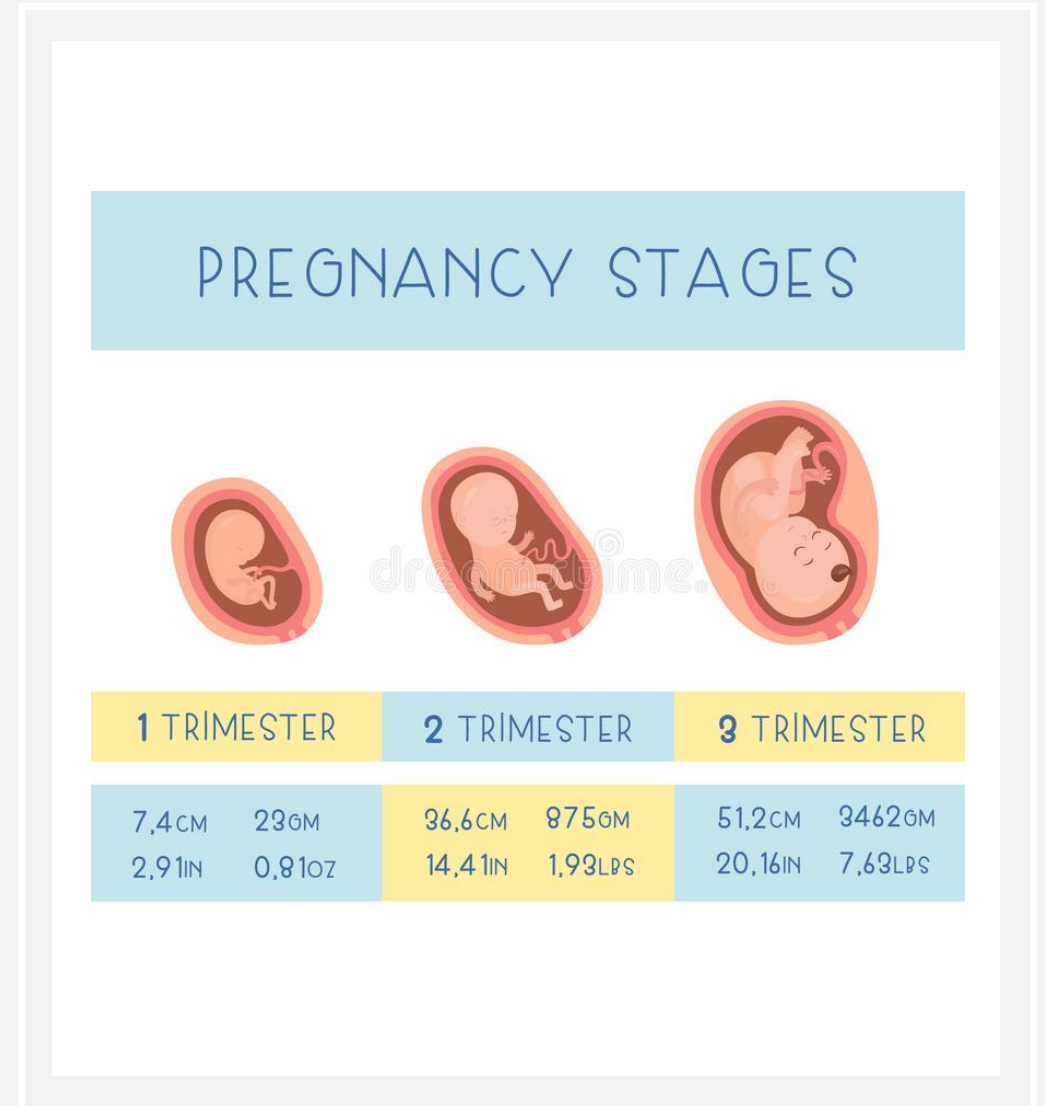


Figure one: child size growth through the three trimesters (dreamstime, n.d)

FIRST TRIMESTER

- Begins on the day of conception, immediately after the sperm and egg come together.
- a zygote is formed, containing all necessary genetic information.
- The zygote grows to become an embryo which travels through the fallopian tubes and into the uterus within 4 days of conception.
- In the first trimester the mother will begin to notice pregnancy symptoms.
- By week 6 the baby's heartbeat can be detected.
- By week 12 the baby's bones, muscles and all organs have been formed.

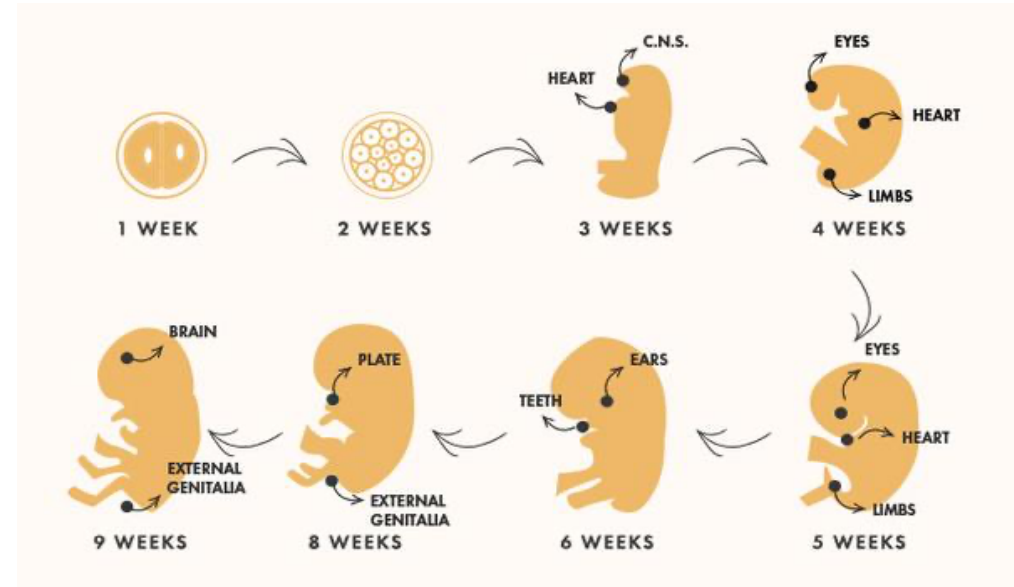


Figure 2: displays the key developments of the child during the first trimester of pregnancy. Demonstrates the development from zygote to embryo, to fetus. (kindered bravely n.d)

FIRST TRIMESTER (CONT.)

- Motions such as yawning, sucking and stretching are now able to be formed by the child.
- Kidneys can produce urine and eyelids have developed and closed to protect the eyes.
- White blood cells are developed to fight germs.
- The heartbeat of the child in the first trimester is twice as fast as an adults.
- By week 8 of the first trimester the baby has quadrupled in size.
- By the end of the 12-week trimester the fetus should be the size of a lime, with all major organ systems in place.



Figure 3: displays the body shape development of the child throughout the first trimester (kindered bravely n.d)

Weeks 13 - 28

(Tommys org, n.d)



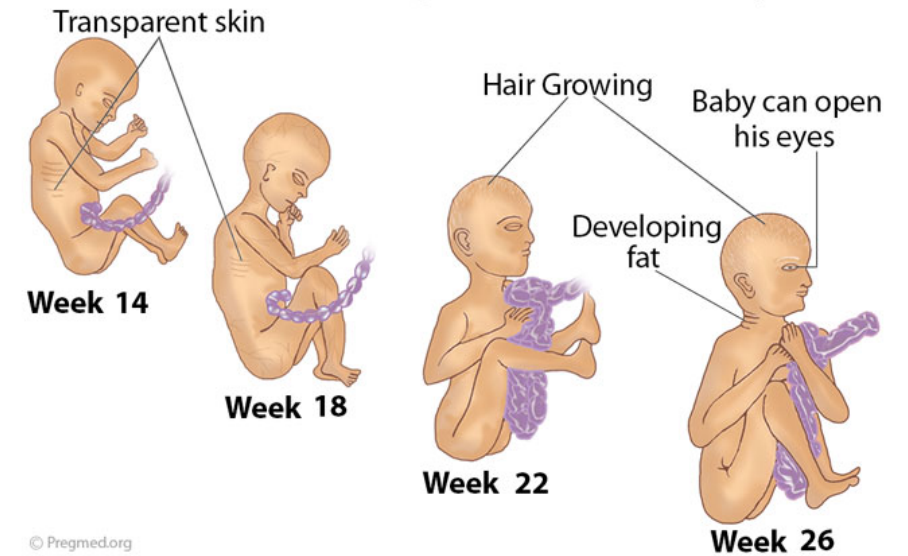
SECOND TRIMESTER

- The middle three months (weeks 13-28) make up the second trimester of pregnancy.
- At the beginning of the second trimester the baby is about the size of a kiwi fruit.
- The baby will develop the ability to respond to light, touch and sound.
- The baby's eyelids will begin blinking.
- By the end of the second trimester the baby weighs about 1kg and is about the size of a large cauliflower.

SECOND TRIMESTER (CONT.)

- The baby can perform major movements (kicking, turning side to side).
- the placenta is fully developed.
- the child's brain will undergo the most important period of growth.
- the baby begins sleep cycles.
- the child's fingernails develop.

Second Trimester: Stages of Fetal Development



(stagesofpregnancyuh, 2016)

Figure 5 displays some of the key developments of a child during the second trimester of pregnancy.

THIRD TRIMESTER

- The third trimester spans from the 28th to the 40th week of pregnancy.
- The child's hair will continue to grow.
- The weight of the child increases rapidly.
- The child's organs will become stronger.
- The head of the baby will begin to move towards the pelvis.

Third Trimester of
Pregnancy

28th to 40th week

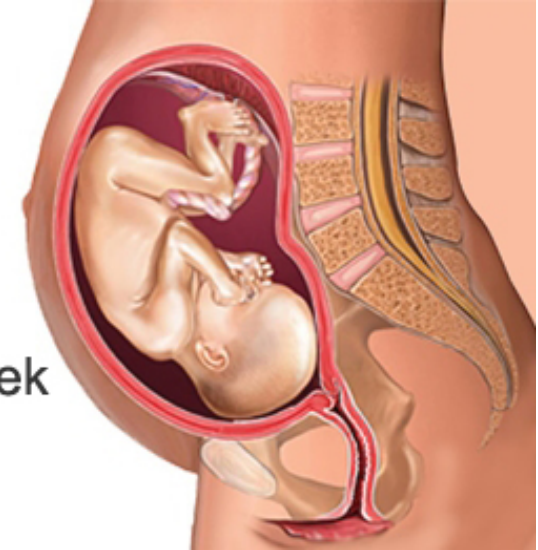


Figure 6 displays the positioning of the child in the womb, towards the end of the third trimester. (overall pregnancy, n.d)

THIRD TRIMESTER (CONT.)

- Increased body fat will develop to allow the child to stay warm after birth.
- The third trimester is made of mainly the child continuing to grow.
- The child should be large and strong enough to be delivered from 37 weeks.
- Before 37 weeks, the baby classifies as premature.
- If healthy, the child will arrive between 1 week either side of the due date.

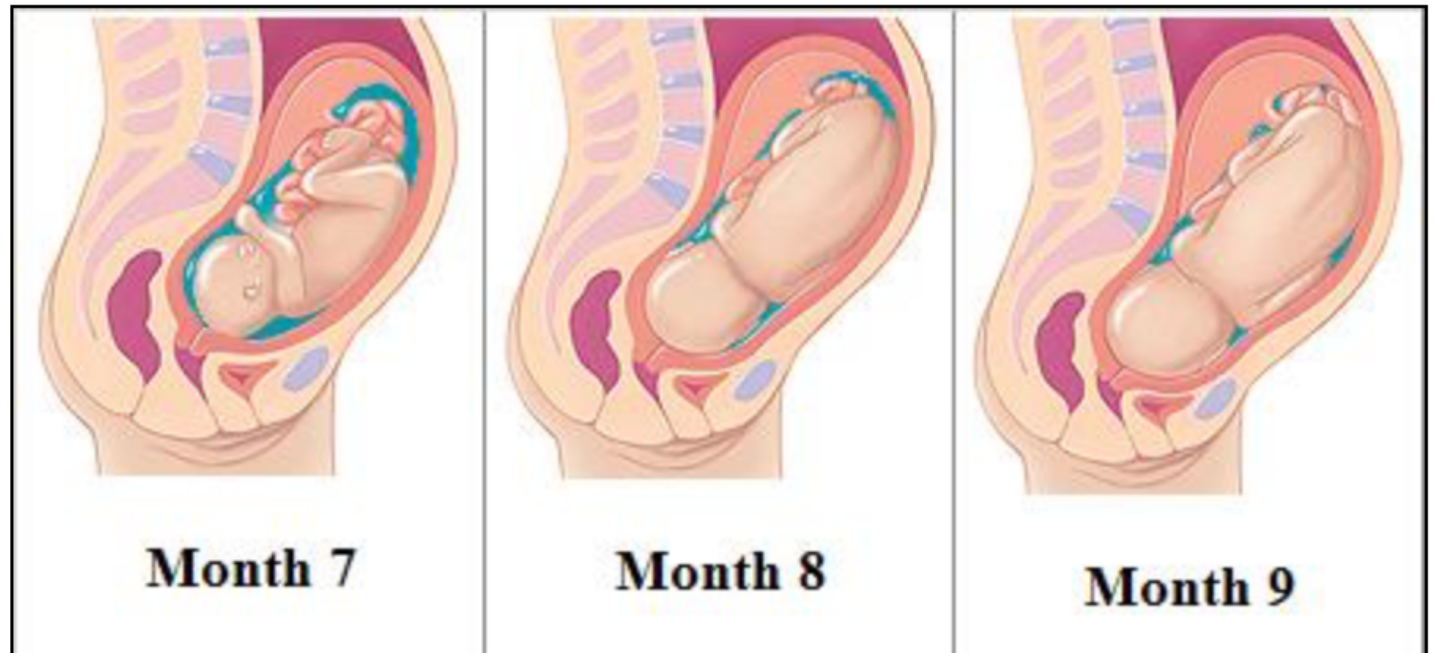


Figure 7 displays the child's changing of positions, preparing for birth during the third trimester of pregnancy (my chart, 2015)

The diagram illustrates the stages of early human development. On the left, a 'Zygote' is shown as a large purple circle with two smaller circles inside. In the center, an 'Embryo' is depicted as a purple circle containing a cluster of smaller purple circles. On the right, a 'Fetus' is shown as a dark purple, more complex shape. A white rectangular box with a thin border is positioned at the top center, containing the word 'EVALUATION'.

EVALUATION

- The 9-month period includes three, three-month trimesters.
- Throughout the three trimesters of pregnancy, the embryo will develop and become a fetus.
- Each trimester is filled with vital stages of growth and development of the child.
- All the child's internal features will grow throughout the pregnancy.
- Most external features of the child are developed inside the womb, some develop or further develop after the child is born.

Zygote

Embryo

Fetus