**Weeks 15 to 27 Prenatal Development Notes**

Based on videos from BabyCenter.ca

# Inside pregnancy: weeks 15-20

Transcript:

Narrator: Between 15 and 20 weeks, your baby will more than double in size. As his body grows, his nervous system is rapidly maturing.

His nerves are connecting his brain to the rest of his body – traveling from the brain through the brainstem and down the spine, and beginning to extend into his torso and limbs.

Your baby's skeleton is changing too. The soft cartilage is starting to harden into bone. This happens first in the arms and legs.

Sensory development is picking up speed. Your baby's brain is designating special areas for smell, taste, hearing, vision, and touch. At this stage, your baby may be able to hear your heartbeat and voice, so read aloud or sing a happy tune.

Your baby may even be sucking his thumb now.

At about 18 weeks, you'll start to experience one of the most exciting parts of pregnancy: feeling your baby's movements. His flexing arms and legs may feel like gentle flutters at first. They'll become even stronger and more frequent in the weeks ahead.

At 20 weeks, your baby weighs a little more than 10 ounces and measures about 10 inches from head to heel (about the length of a banana).

This week is a big milestone – the halfway point in your pregnancy.

# Inside pregnancy: weeks 21-27

# Transcript: Narrator: Between 21 and 27 weeks, your baby's sense of touch is developing, along with his unique fingerprints. When you rub or gently press on your belly, you may feel your baby squirm or kick in response. He can feel his own face now, as well as anything within his reach, including the umbilical cord. He'll keep experimenting with and refining his sense of touch. Around 23 weeks, your baby can swallow. Soon after, you may notice fetal hiccups. Don't worry, hiccups are a normal part of development, and it's common for your baby to have them several times a day. His lungs are also forming millions of tiny branches, called bronchioles. Incredibly, your baby is already practicing breathing by inhaling and moving small amounts of amniotic fluid in and out of his lungs. At 24 weeks, a baby is capable of surviving outside the uterus with significant medical help. At 27 weeks, your baby's eyelids may open as a reflex, but he can't see yet. His lips are formed, and he now has tiny taste buds on his tongue. He weighs nearly 2 pounds and is about 14 and a half inches long. Now there's just one more trimester to go! Inside pregnancy: how smoking affects your baby

# Transcript: Some of the smoke that Olivia inhales makes its way to her fetus. Some toxins can penetrate the placenta. The fetus is especially sensitive to the effects of nicotine and is defenseless against it. It is a real danger, because nicotine and toxins delay the fetus's growth. As a result, it can be born too small or prematurely. Inside pregnancy: girl or boy

**Transcript:**

 Your baby's sex is set at conception.

At around 7 weeks, your baby's internal sex organs – such as ovaries and testes – begin to form in the abdomen.

Male and female sex organs and genitalia look the same at this stage because they're derived from the same structures.

At around 9 weeks, boys and girls begin to develop differently.

In girls, a tiny bud emerges between the tissue of the legs. This bud will become the clitoris. The membrane that forms a groove below the bud separates to become the labia minora and the vaginal opening.

By 22 weeks, the ovaries are completely formed and move from the abdomen to the pelvis. They already contain a lifetime supply of 6 million eggs.

In boys, the bud develops into the penis and starts to elongate at around 12 weeks. The outer membrane grows into the scrotal sac that will later house the testicles.

By 22 weeks, the testes have formed in the abdomen. They already contain immature sperm. Soon they'll begin their descent to the scrotum, but it's a long journey. They'll reach their destination late in pregnancy, or for some boys, after birth.

If you're eager to find out whether you're having a girl or a boy, you'll have to wait until you're at least 17 weeks pregnant. That's when the genitals have developed enough to be seen on an ultrasound.