



A Mother's Beginning

*We celebrate Mother's Day as a way to celebrate the **love and commitment** that our mothers have given to their children. This special handout is our way of recognizing the **gift of life** from the time of conception, and also our way of thanking our mothers for their **commitment to life**.*

Day 1: Your new life begins today when the 23 chromosomes of your dad have joined with the 23 chromosomes of your mom. The result is a unique child who has begun a wonderful journey called life.

Days 5-9: These first days of life are extraordinary as you travel down the fallopian tube and implant in the uterine lining.

Day 21: Your mother might first suspect that you exist, but by this third week of life, your heart is beating and the basics of your nervous system are established.

Day 40: Your mom doesn't know what you are thinking, but brain waves can be measured.

Week 8: You are only an inch long and your mom can't feel you move yet, but you are becoming sensitive to touch, your stomach is producing digestive juices and your kidneys are beginning to function.

Week 11: You have grown another inch in less than three weeks and your face is starting to look like the little baby we will see at birth.

Month 4: You have really been growing and are now 8-10 inches long (which makes your mom's belly stretch a little).

Month 5: You are now 12 inches long and your hearing is so good that you can recognize your mom's voice. You even startle at sudden sounds around you.

Month 6: It is still too early for you to be born, but in an emergency many children your age have been able to live outside the womb. You will spend the next few months growing bigger and stronger.

Month 9: You started a single cell and are now are a fully formed baby. You have been wonderfully made, but the journey continues.

Today, we recognize the love and sacrifices you have given as a mother and say "Thank You!"



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