

Child Development

Newborn infant

A baby cries immediately after he is born. This is the start of active breathing. He may sneeze frequently for a while after. This is the way he clears his nose and throat.

Eyes - because he has been living in a world of darkness, the infant reacts to the light around him by blinking, frowning, or closing his eyes. For some weeks, he will be unable to focus his eyes.

Ears - while he can't tell one sound from another, noise may cause the baby to jump, stop any movement, cry, or turn his head.

Nose - the baby's nose is usually misshapen or flat after birth. The normal shape is nearly always gained in a short time.

Mouth - sucking and swallowing reflexes are usually present at birth. However, they are not always well coordinated, so that for a while the baby may choke, gag, or dribble occasionally. Coughs, sneezes, tastes sweet and sour, spits, burps, vomits, cries.

Skin - In the first days, the infant's skin is tender, red, and scaling. A light, pasty substance may be seen in the creases.

Weight - most babies lose weight shortly after birth and regain it before the tenth day. After that, they usually gain about 6 ounces a week.

Breathing and heartbeat are rapid and irregular

Moves arms, legs, finger, head, and neck randomly without control

Babinski reflex: startle response to cold or hot food or bath

Urination 18 times, defecation 4-7 times daily, penis erection

Sleeps 20 hours a day

2 Weeks

Eyes begin to focus