

Prenatal Development and the Newborn

Genetics
At 8 weeks after conception, babies are anatomically indistinguishable until around the 5th month. A child's sex is determined by the 23rd pair of chromosomes. Two X's indicate a female while an X and a Y indicate a male. The Y chromosome can only come from the father as the mother has only X's. The Y chromosome stimulates the development of the male sex organ by producing testosterone.

Terms to Know:

Zygote: the fertilized egg; less than half survive past 2 weeks. After 10 days, zygote attach to mother's uterine wall and form placenta for nourishment.

Embryo the developing human from 2 weeks to second month.

Fetus: the developing human from 2 months to birth.

- The fetus hears muffled version of mother's voice and prefers it after birth
- **Teratogens:** agents that can harm the embryo or the fetus during the prenatal stage such as alcohol

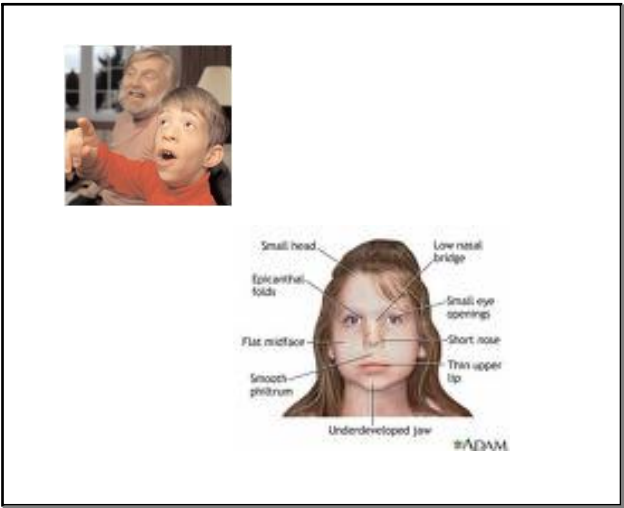
The Newborn
Newborns are equipped with reflexes for survival. The **rooting reflex** is the reflex that when the baby is touched on cheek he opens the mouth to find the nipple. If not satisfied, the baby cries.

We are born preferring sight and sounds that encourage social interaction.

- turn to human voices
- recognize mother's scent
- gaze at faces
- prefer objects 8-12" away

<http://www.w-cpc.org/fetal1.html>

Mar 15-2:50 PM



Mar 18-12:18 PM