

Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait®

Really important things happen to a baby in the last few weeks of pregnancy. Babies need at least 39 weeks in the womb to fully grow and develop.

Here's what at least 39 weeks can do:

liver:

The liver and other organs grow and develop.

mouth:

A baby has time to learn to suck and swallow so he can eat after he's born.

brain:

In the last 6 weeks of pregnancy, the size of a baby's brain almost doubles. This helps with things like balance, learning and behavior as he gets older.

eyes and ears:

Babies born at 39 weeks or later are less likely to have vision and hearing problems than babies born early.

lungs:

Babies born at 39 weeks or later are less likely to have breathing problems than babies born early.

More and more births are being scheduled a little early for non-medical reasons. This can cause problems for both mom and baby. If your pregnancy is healthy, it's best to stay pregnant until labor begins on its own.

For more information about a baby's growth and development, go to: marchofdimes.com/39weeks



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

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