

There are three stages of prenatal development during the course of a fetus' growth. These three stages are: Germinal, Embryonic and Fetal.

The Germinal Stage occurs during weeks one and two of fetal development. This stage starts at conception when a man's sperm cell combines with a woman's egg cell called fertilization and forms a new single cell called a zygote. The zygote then goes through a process of mitosis, or multiplying and forming millions of new cells to develop into an embryo thus entering the embryonic stage.

The embryonic stage occurs during weeks three through eight of fetal development. The previous zygote now formed into an embryo will connect itself to the lining of a mother's uterus where blood vessels will multiply and form into a placenta. The placenta is where the fetus will be protected and grown a head, hands, feet, spinal cord and organs.

Lastly, the fetal stage occurs during weeks nine through forty of fetal development. It is here that sex organs develop and are clearly visible later, hearing starts, fingers and toes develop, bones develop, the brain develops, lungs develop, heart develops and muscles develop. The fetus doubles and triples in size further growing until it has no room to move or develop.