



Looking at Life in the Womb FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

ACTIVITY MAT Guide for Parents and Teachers

Opening prayer: *Dear God, You have given us Your gift of life. You have created each one of us to be Your child. Help us to use Your Word and the gift of science as we learn more about the beginning of life today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

THE GOAL for these beginning of life resources for children is to begin teaching about God's gift of life at an early age so children are prepared when facing a world that seeks to devalue this gift. It may seem like conversations about these topics should start later, but young children can begin absorbing and comprehending this information earlier than we think! Teaching children that they are created by God as a boy or girl from the very moment of conception is foundational for a future understanding of not only how precious life is, but also who they are as God's children — created, saved and loved by Him.

These activity mats can be printed and laminated for use in classrooms and the home. The ages listed on the sheets are commonly used checkpoints when monitoring the growth and development of a baby in the womb. It is a great opportunity to show that life really does begin in the womb.

The size of the printed drawing matches the measurements of the baby!*

* The dates on each sheet are based on age from the point of conception, rather than on the gestational age (which is dating from the mother's last menstrual period). Additionally, there may be a slight difference in the size of the pictures based on each printer.

At the bottom of each sheet are developmental milestones for babies at that age.

The mats can be used with sensory items (beans, Play-Doh, beads, etc.) so the children can model the size of the baby using tactile learning strategies directly on the mat.

Activities and suggested discussion

- Have the child find their finger, point to their fingertip and look for the tiny lines on their finger. Tell them that these are fingerprints. Everyone has a unique fingerprint!
- Have the child put their hand over their heart to feel it beating. Tell the child that heartbeats start when babies are the size of the baby on the mat.
- Ask the child to name some friends who are boys, and then some friends who are girls. God makes every boy and girl special. God makes babies to be boys or girls before they are even born!
- Have the child ask their parents if they sang songs to them at 36 weeks, or when their mother first felt them kick inside her womb.

Scripture passages to discuss and learn by heart

"Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (GEN. 2:7).

“For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there were none of them” (PS. 139: 13–16).

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward” (PS. 127:3).

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
all the remnant of the house of Israel,
who have been borne by me from before your birth,
carried from the womb;
even to your old age I am he,
and to gray hairs I will carry you.
I have made, and I will bear;
I will carry and will save” (IS. 46:3–4).

“Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you from the womb and will help you:
Fear not, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen” (IS. 44:2).

CHILDREN HAVE BEEN GIVEN the wonderful gift of curiosity! Their desire to explore and learn is bound to come with questions about topics that may catch you off guard, but any conversations about the beginning of life are helpful at this age. Perhaps they have family experience with adoption, miscarriage, divorce and the like. As parents and educators, it can be difficult and sometimes overwhelming to answer questions we don’t have the answers to. In these situations, it is totally okay to admit you don’t know! God has blessed us with faithful pastors and other trained and commissioned workers to help answer the hard questions. Please do not hesitate to ask them and use this as a learning opportunity for you and the children. For more resources on other life topics (e.g., adoption, family, gender), see lcmslife.org.

Closing prayer: *Dear God, we know that you have created each and every one of us. You were with us when we were tiny babies in the womb, are still with us today and promise to be with us our whole lives. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us, so we can be with You in heaven one day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

A baby **6 weeks**
alive in the womb



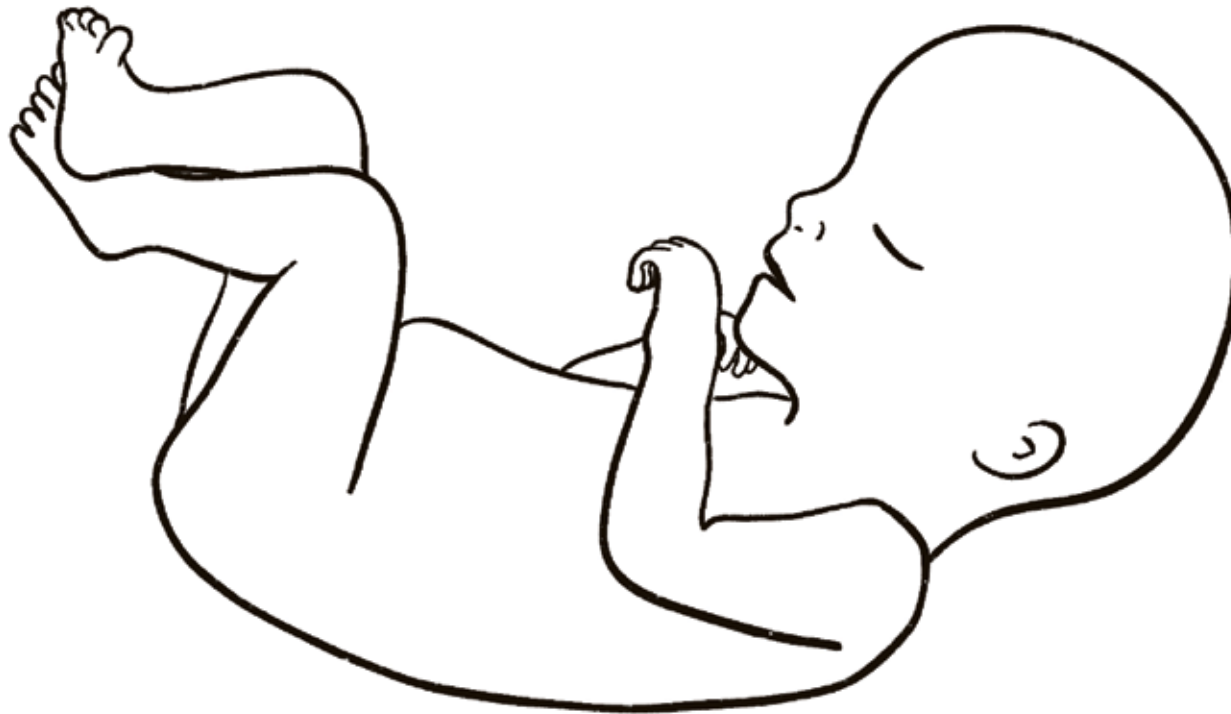
has a heart that has already started beating, has a brain that is developing, the eyes, ears and nose are forming. God created each baby as a boy or girl from the very beginning.

A baby **12 weeks**
alive in the womb



has arms and legs that are moving, has
tastebuds, can suck his/her own thumb,
has fingerprints that are forming.

A baby **18 weeks** alive in the womb



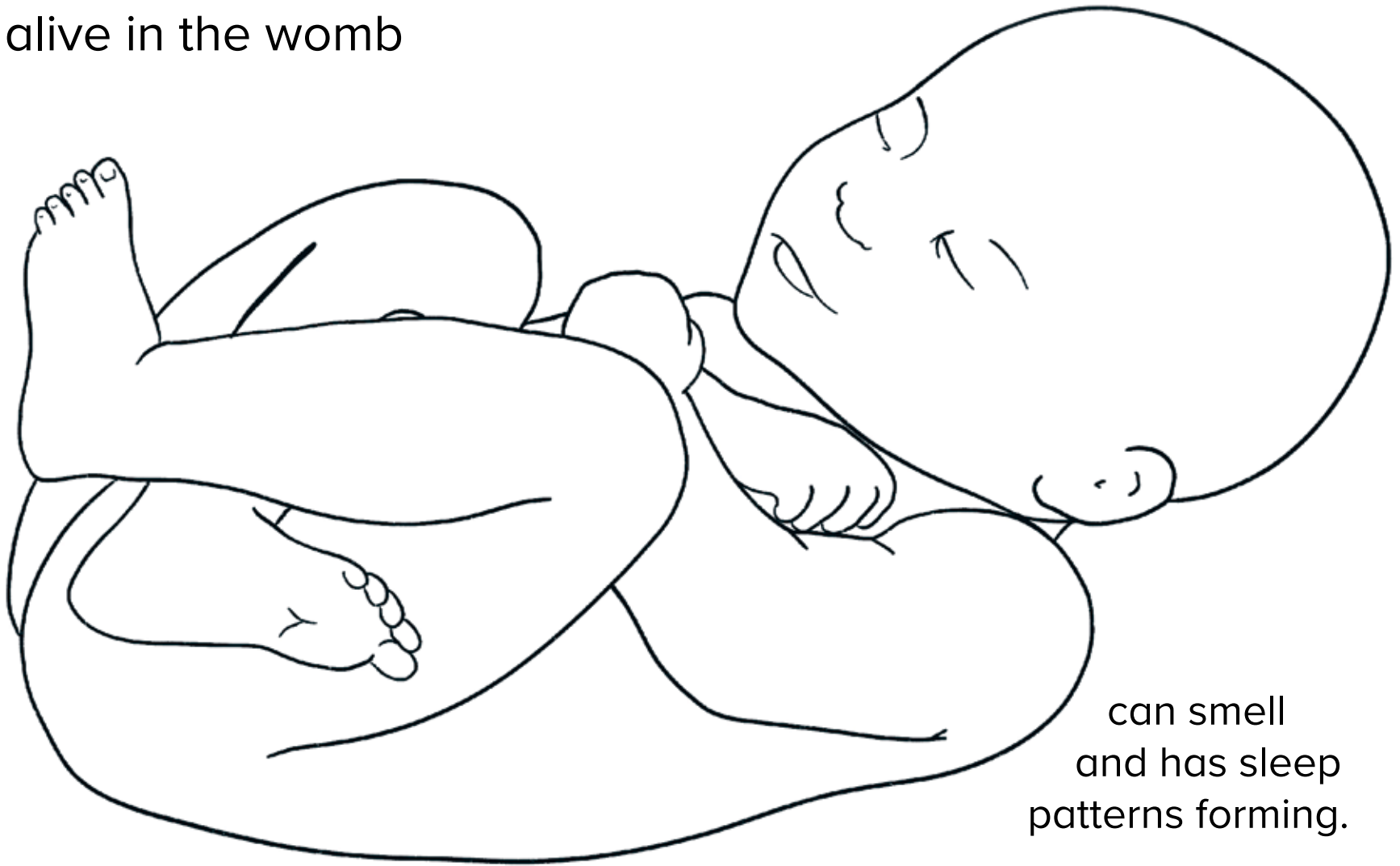
has vocal cords, can feel pain, and a mom can feel the baby moving inside.

A baby **24 weeks**
alive in the womb



will respond to sounds,
eyes will respond to light,
and can have dreams.

A baby **30 weeks**
alive in the womb



can smell
and has sleep
patterns forming.

A baby **36 weeks**
alive in the womb



recognizes familiar
voices and songs
and can distinguish
different flavors.