

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Corrected Age

Before babies are born, they need 38 to 40 weeks to fully develop. This is called a **full term pregnancy**. Babies who are born early (**premature**) might not grow and develop at the same rate as full term infants.

How do you know your child's corrected age?

Your premature baby has two birthdays:

1. the day your baby was born, and
2. the day you expected your baby to be born.

When we watch your baby's development, we look at:

- the length of your pregnancy (gestational age), and
- your baby's age in weeks (calendar age)

The gestational age + calendar age = corrected age

We look at the corrected age to see if your baby is growing well. Your baby's growth and development should be at the level of his or her corrected age.

Here are some examples:

Example 1:

28 weeks = length of pregnancy (gestational age)

+ 6 weeks = calendar age

34 weeks = corrected age

Since a full term baby is 40 weeks old, this baby should be developed like a baby who is 6 weeks early.

40 weeks full term – 34 weeks of corrected age = 6 weeks early

Example 2:

34 weeks = length of pregnancy (gestational age)

+10 weeks = calendar age

44 weeks = corrected age

This baby is like a 4 week old.

44 weeks of corrected age – 40 weeks full term = 4 weeks old

When your premature baby reaches the corrected age of 40 weeks, he or she will act like a newborn baby.

We look at corrected age for growth and development until your baby is 2 years old.

Catch-up growth:

How fast your baby grows the first year depends on:

- your baby's gestational age
- how sick your baby was
- the length of your baby's sickness

Babies who are healthy and eat well when they go home quickly gain weight and grow. This happens between 36 weeks of corrected age until the baby is about 2-1/2 months old, in corrected age.

Your baby should gain at least 1/2 ounce a day or 4 ounces a week when he or she goes home. Often babies gain much more.

Babies who were born at 24 to 28 weeks gestational age will grow slower and take longer to catch up in growth.

Babies who were very sick or who have many medical problems may take longer to catch up in growth and development.

There is a special growth chart for premature babies. Your child's doctor can compare your baby's head, weight, and length with other premature babies.

Now that you've read this:

- Show your doctor or nurse how to figure out your child's corrected age. (Check when done.)
- Tell your doctor or nurse how much weight your baby should gain each week. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
www.theemilycenter.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/theemilycenter](https://www.facebook.com/theemilycenter)
Twitter: @emilycenter
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/emilycenter](https://www.pinterest.com/emilycenter)

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

February 8, 2016 • DRAFT to family review
#1643 • Written by Nicki Mitchell, MSN, RN • Illustrated by Irene Takamizu



Child Care/Health Promotion
Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

#1643

Corrected Age

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Date returned: _____ db

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

The Emily Center
Health Education Specialist
Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

602-933-1395

Thank you for helping us!