

Life Cycle of a Mouse

A small, brown and white mouse is standing on a light-colored wooden floor. To the left of the mouse is a large, brown leather boot with black laces and metal eyelets. The background is a blurred workshop or garage with various tools and items on shelves.

Study*ladder*

Mammals that have a short gestation period (length of time the mother is pregnant) are often not fully developed at birth.

Female mice give birth to a litter just 19-21 days after becoming pregnant. Babies are born hairless, deaf and blind. Their ears are closed over and their eyes are firmly shut. Their bodies finish developing after they are born.

Mice litters are nursed by the female for about 21 days. They grow to full size within a few weeks and are fully mature and able to have litters of their own at the age of about six weeks.



Timeline of development

After a 19-21 day gestation period, 5-6 or more babies are born in a litter.

By 4 days of age, their ears are fully developed.

About 6 days, their hair begins to develop.

By 10 days they have a full coat of fur.

By day 13 or 14, babies open their eyes and have grown to almost full size.

At 21 days they are weaned (stop taking milk from their mothers).

At about 6 weeks they are fully mature and able to mate.

