

# Infancy

## Physical Development

“A baby is God's opinion that life should go on.”  
-Carl Sandburg

“A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for” - Anonymous

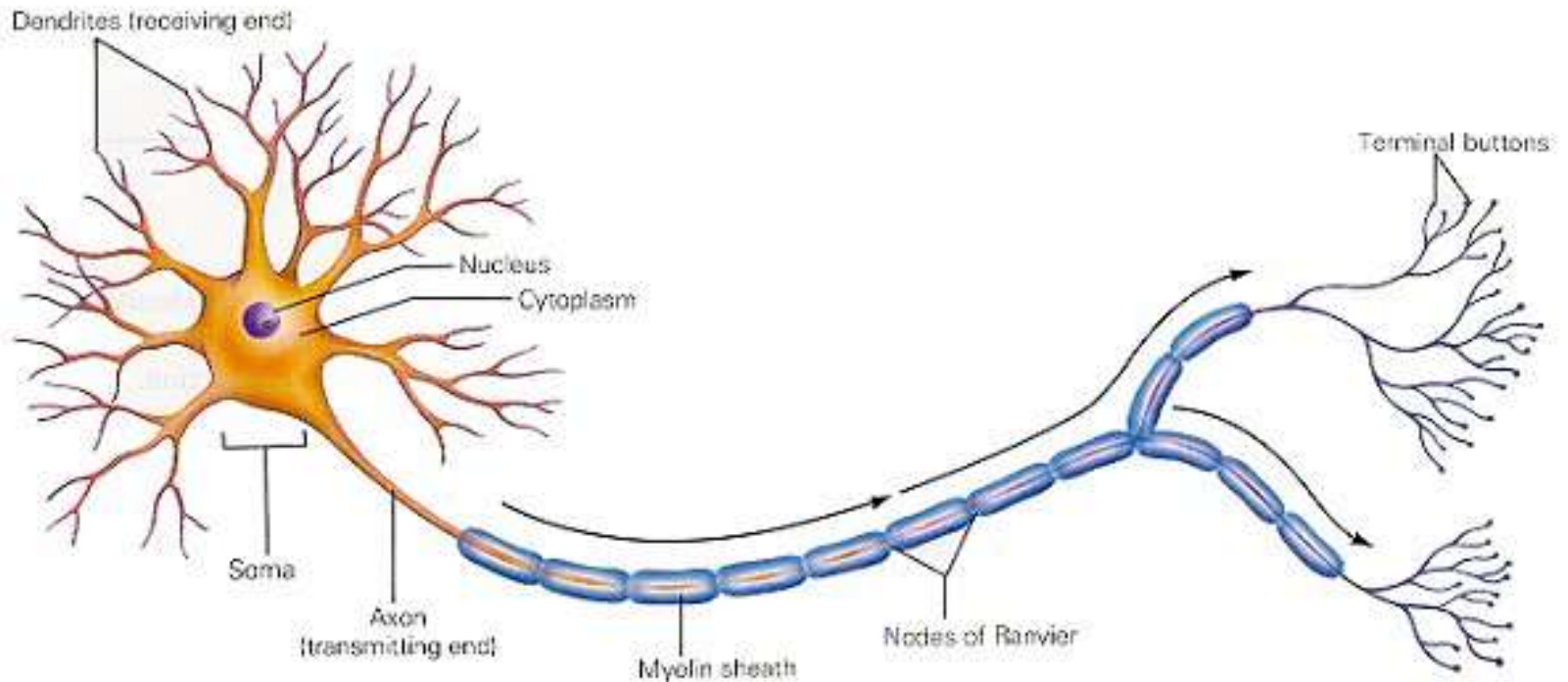
## Basic Body Growth

- Cephalocaudal
- Proximodistal
- Average American baby
  - 20 in.
  - 7.5 lbs.
- Grow quickly first weeks and months but start to slow down
  - Average baby gains 5 to 6 oz. per week for the first month.

# Neurons

## *THE MAJOR STRUCTURES OF THE NEURON*

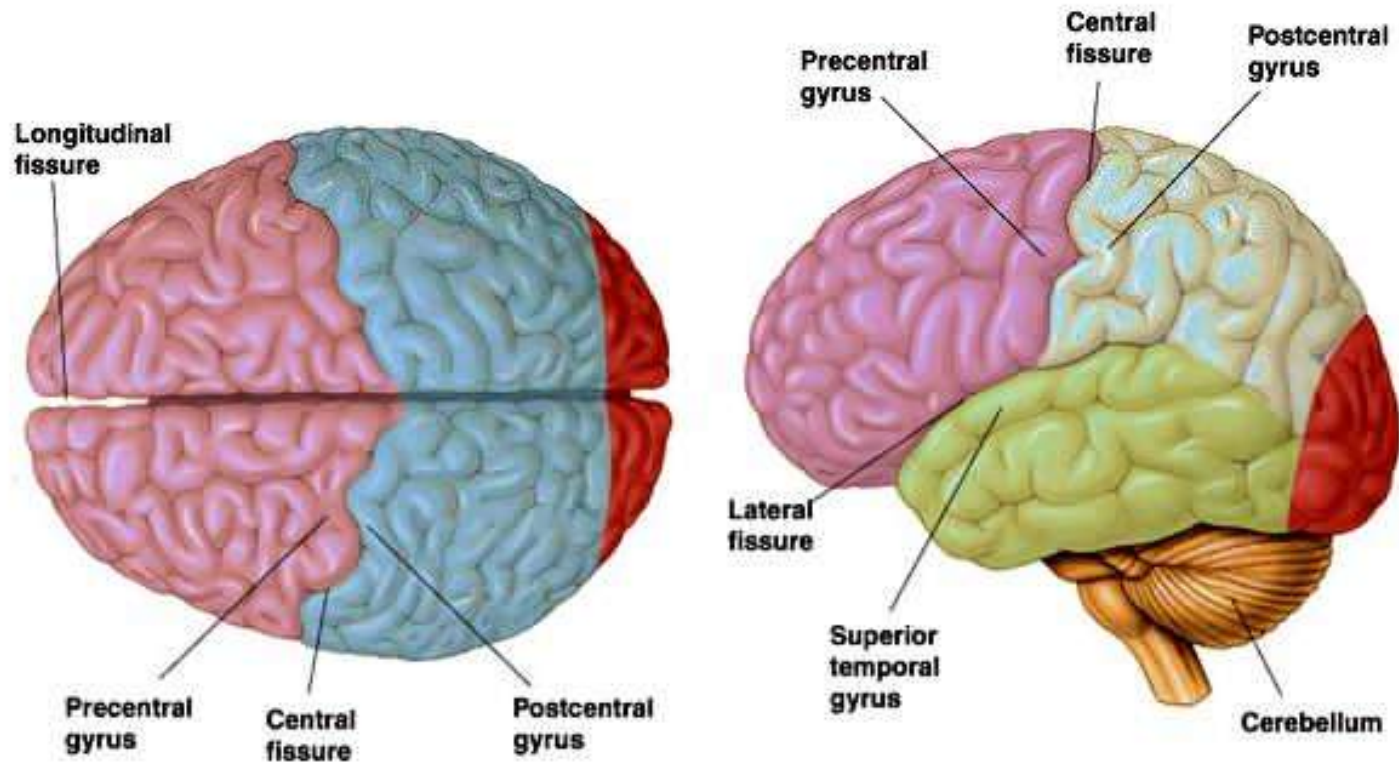
The neuron receives nerve impulses through its dendrites. It then sends the nerve impulses through its axon to the terminal buttons where neurotransmitters are released to stimulate other neurons.



# Neurons

- Myelination
- Neuron growth
  - Continues en masse until about 1 year
  - Synaptic pruning

## ► The Lobes of the Cerebral Hemispheres



Frontal lobe    Parietal lobe    Temporal lobe    Occipital lobe

# Sleep

- Infant average is 16 – 17
- REM sleep
  - Newborn – 50%
  - 3 months – 40%
  - Adult – 25%
- SIDS

“The kind of man who thinks that helping with the dishes is beneath him will also think that helping with the baby is beneath him, and then he certainly is not going to be a very successful father” - Eleanor Roosevelt

# Nutrition

- Marasmus
  - Tissue atrophy
- Kwashiorkor
  - Protein deficiency
  - Swollen abdomen and feet
- Breast- versus bottle-feeding



# Reflexes

- Sucking
- Rooting
- Moro
  - Startle
- Grasping



# Sensation and Perception

- Vision
  - Acuity and color
  - Preferences
  - Faces
  - Depth perception
  - Vision is least developed at birth (about 20/400) but color distinction is pretty good (done by about 2 months). Babies prefer faces and other patterned objects. All other senses are pretty good.
- Hearing
- Touch
- Smell
  - Babies know and prefer the smell of their mothers' breast milk to that from other women
- Taste