

GESTATION: 27-31 days * WEIGHT: ± 3 ounces * LENGTH: 2-3 inches

Just like Mom, Daddy Flamingo is fantastic at feeding! For the first six weeks of their baby's life, both parents make a nutritious liquid to feed their chick. This special *crop milk* has a beautiful reddish color.

The American flamingo

After 12 days, the chicks waddle to flamingo daycare. A few parents babysit, while the rest (sometimes as many as 20,000 flamingos!) fly off to find food and handle grown-up stuff.

While making the crop milk, Mom and Dad lose their pretty pink color. They get it back once the baby starts to find food on its own. **Whew!**

It's quite a task for Daddy Flamingo to find his chick among all those fluffy lookalikes at daycare. Luckily, each chick has a unique call, as if they're shouting, "Hey, Dad, I'm over here!"

A baby flamingo is also called a **chick**.

The chicks stay in the nest for 4 to 12 days, close to Dad and Mom.

Dad and Mom are skilled builders. For six weeks, they work on a nest that can reach up to 12 inches! This way, their precious egg is protected from flooding and heat rising from the ground.

Dad and Mom take turns cuddling the egg to keep it warm.

Can you stand on one leg like a flamingo without losing your balance?

Under your wings, the world feels soft and safe. Outside, the world seems big, but you're always near. Watching, caring, proud. With your help, I learn step by step, sometimes stumbling, but always caught by your loving gaze. One day, I'll spread my own wings. Not too soon, not too late. Just the right time for me.

GESTATION: 50-70 days 🐾 WEIGHT: less than .04 ounces 🐾 LENGTH: ± 1/6 inch

The Darwin's frog

Mommy Frog lays up to 40 eggs in leaf litter on the forest floor. Dad fertilizes the eggs and stays nearby. His job has only just begun!

Daddy Frog stays close to his eggs for three weeks. When the larvae start to move inside their eggs, he carefully scoops them into his vocal sac. They stay there for a few more days before hatching into tadpoles.

When the tadpoles grow big enough, they move into their dad's mouth. It looks like Dad is spitting out the frogs! He usually does this near water.

If this frog meets a predator, he plays hide-and-seek! He freezes and pretends to be a dead leaf. Smart, right?

Dad doesn't eat at all while his tadpoles are camping in his vocal sac. So, he has to make sure he eats enough before scooping them up!

The vocal sac of the Darwin's frog is a fold of skin in the throat. Only the males have this sac. Usually, it's used for calling, but with the Darwin's frog, it also serves as a safe place to carry larvae.

As long as the tadpoles stay in Dad's vocal sac, they get nutrients through his skin. They also eat the leftover parts of their eggs, which are still full of nutrients.

The tadpoles stay in Dad's vocal sac for 50 to 70 days, safe from predators.

A baby frog is also called a **tadpole**.

Dad, you teach me to find my own path and always give me that extra nudge. You make sure I know that what I say matters and my presence is important. You help me find my voice and show me how to use its power when I need it most.

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What's your loudest frog croak?