**Fetal Skull**

- The fetal skull is large compared to the infant’s total body length
- **Fontanel** - fibrous membranes connecting the cranial bones
  - Allow the brain to grow
  - Convert to bone within 24 months after birth (locate and be able to identify the anterior, posterior, sphenoidal, and mastoid fontanels on the figure below)

![Fetal Skull Diagram](image)

- Each vertebrae is given a name according to its location
  - There are 24 single vertebral bones separated by intervertebral discs
    - 7 Cervical vertebrae are in the neck
    - 12 Thoracic vertebrae are in the chest region
    - 5 Lumbar vertebrae are associated with the lower back

- Nine vertebrae fuse to form two composite bones
  - Sacrum
  - Coccyx
THE VERTEBRAL COLUMN

- The spine has a normal curvature
  - *Primary* curvatures are the spinal curvatures of the thoracic and sacral regions (locate these on the figure above)
    - Present from birth
  - *Secondary* curvatures are the spinal curvatures of the cervical and lumbar regions (locate these on the figure above)
    - Develop after birth when baby starts holding up head (cervical) and when the baby starts to walk (lumbar)
Be able to identify the parts of the vertebra: Spinous process, transverse process, vertebral foramen, body, pedicle, lamina
Know that the FIRST cervical vertebrae is called the **ATLAS; C1**
Know that the SECOND cervical vertebrae is called the **AXIS; C2**

**SACRUM AND COCCYX**
- **Sacrum**
  - Formed by the fusion of 5 vertebrae
- **Coccyx**
  - Formed from the fusion of 3 to 5 vertebrae
  - “Tailbone,” or remnant of a tail that other vertebrates have
THE BONY THORAX (THORACIC CAGE)

- Forms a cage to protect major organs
- Consists of three parts
  - **Sternum**
  - Ribs
    - *True* (pairs 1–7) (this connect to the sternum by ONE branch of cartilage, find them on the figure below)
    - *False ribs* (pairs 8–12) (this connect to the sternum by SHARED branches of cartilage, find them on the figure below)
    - *Floating ribs* (pairs 11–12) (these DO NOT connect to the sternum by cartilage, find them on the figure below)
  - 12 Thoracic vertebrae